

Portfolio £22,000 to be won

There is £22,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today...

Madrid may get special role in Nato

Spain's withdrawal from Nato would cause a very grave weakening of the alliance...

Ban on service for activist

A memorial service for the South African civil rights campaigner, Mrs Molly Blackburn...

Bank raid claim

A bank cashier helped to plan a robbery at her own bank and was later awarded £1,750 compensation...

Gartcosh March

Scottish steelworkers left Gartcosh steel plant in Lanarkshire on a 450-mile march to London...

Reagan mission

President Reagan flew to a summit in Mexico City to be dominated by his policy changes...

Air crash kills plot officers

A group of Nigerian officers held on coup plot charges were killed when a plane crashing on Lagos crashed at Kaduna...

Year of hope

Despite setbacks in the City, in 1985, the experts reveal expectations for the investor of a bullish New Year for Britain...

Heysel switch

Three of the senior police officers in charge of security during the Heysel football stadium riots last year have been removed from active duty...

Lonrho closure

Mr Roland "Toby" Rowland's Lonrho has closed its air-freight subsidiary, Techlinks, because of its inability to operate the company profitably...

Drug epidemic

Drug abuse increased around the world last year, despite tough counter-measures in many countries...

250 lose jobs

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Farley puzzle

Scientists fear they may never find the source of the salmonella infection at the Farley baby food factory...

India hit 600

Three batsmen scored centuries as India amassed a total of 600 for four wickets declared against Australia in the third final Test at Sydney...

Carrier force sails as US increases pressure on Libya

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Reagan Administration yesterday increased sharply its campaign of psychological pressure against Libya...



A skier's view of Innsbruck in Austria during practice at the Beig 1st site for today's ski-jumping event...

Britain's reserves plunge by \$416m

Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves recorded the biggest fall for three years last month, as the Bank of England acted to stop the pound from falling...

Westland warned of £1bn loss if US deal is backed

Westland could lose more than £1 billion worth of European business if the helicopter company's shareholders opt for the United Technologies-Fiat bid...

2,800 jobs expected from boat orders

The orders for submarines and torpedoes worth about £900m announced yesterday by the Ministry of Defence are expected to create about 2,800 jobs...

Labour to pin hopes on manufacturing

The Labour Party leader Mr Neil Kinnock will this month spearhead a co-ordinated effort by senior members of the shadow Cabinet to convince the electorate that it offers the best chance of regenerating the British economy...

Cricket officials await reactions on ban

English cricket authorities were still waiting to hear last night whether there were to be further repercussions around the world following Bangladesh's decision to ban four England B players with South African connections...

Sinn Fein candidate to fight poll from cell

Provisional Sinn Fein has nominated Mr Owen Carron, the former MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, to fight this month's by-election from his prison cell...

Britons retain posts on EEC commission

The two British EEC commissioners, Lord Cockfield and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis successfully fought off attempts to reduce their responsibilities in the new commission...

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MONDAY

The city that still trembles Mental aftermath of Mexico's earthquake When the men come first Wives who sacrifice careers for husbands

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Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Bridge, Business, Chess, Court, Crosswords, Diary, Events, Features. Includes page numbers for each section.

Cashier got compensation after helping to raid own bank, court is told

A bank cashier helped to mastermind a hold-up at her own bank, then picked up a cash award for her ordeal, St Albans Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mrs Annette White, aged 31, was pushed, bound and gagged and left in the bank's strong room during the £64,000 robbery last May.

But it was all a charade. Afterwards she put on such a convincing act as a robbery victim that her employers awarded her £1,750 compensation.

Mr Robert Marshall-Andrews, for the prosecution, said Mrs White had provided the two robbers with the layout of the bank, given them details of the movement of her colleagues, and told them where to find the money.

Mrs White, of Broad Stone Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, pleaded not guilty to robbery and a second charge of obtaining compensation by deception.

Mr Marshall-Andrews said that the robbery at the Lloyds sub-branch at The Quadrant, St Albans, had been carried out by a father and daughter team, Derek Cracknell, aged 60, and Gillian Walker, aged 34. Both were well known to Mrs White

and the women had been friends since 1979.

"Annette White had provided them with substantial information about the bank. She was actually aware of the facts that the robbery was going to take place and she had provided information which had allowed the robbery to take place", he said.

The court was told that Cracknell and his daughter had tricked one of Mrs White's colleagues into opening the bank doors before the official opening time. They then decided to be armed and forced their way inside where Mrs White and her male colleague were tied up while the safe was rifled.

The raiders knew that the bank manager would be away from the building at the time of the robbery. Mrs White had also told them that her bank colleague, Mr Ian Herbert, was "weedy" and would give them no trouble.

Mr Marshall-Andrews said that in the days leading up to the robbery, Mrs White had ordered extra money to be placed in the safe so that the bandits would collect a larger haul than would normally be there.

"The crown says she was

stocking the bank up because this robbery was going to take place and she knew it", he said.

The jury was told that the money was left in the hands of a "minder", who hid the haul in his loft. When the gang, including Mrs White, was arrested last June police recovered just over half the money that had been stolen.

A total of £10,000 was found in a drawer at Mrs White's home. She had told police of plans for her and Walker to purchase a video shop in Peterborough. More sums of money were found with Cracknell and his daughter.

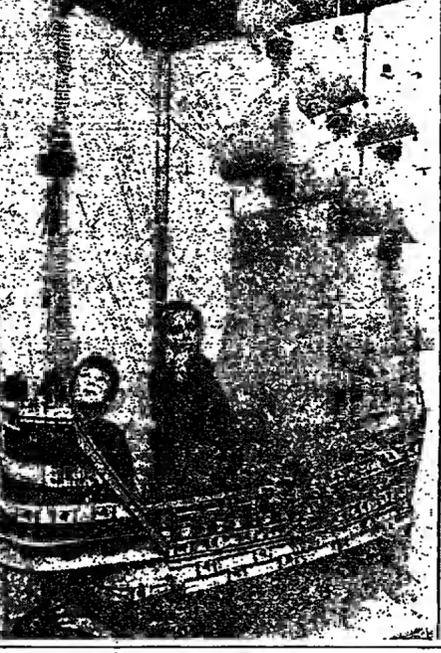
Mr Marshall-Andrews said that Mrs White had been paid £1,750 by Lloyds bank, who had assumed she was the innocent victim of a "terrifying" robbery.

Walker, of Peterborough, who is serving a four-year jail term for her part in the robbery, told the jury that Mrs White had often joked about robbing the bank where she worked. She said Mrs White had handed her plans to the bank and told her what was the best time she and her father should strike. Cracknell is also serving four years for the robbery.

The case continues on Monday.



Medal winners in the Fifty-fifth Model Engineer Exhibition at the Wembley Conference Centre yesterday. The Bugatti Type 51 (above) made by Mr L. Sellors, of Oxford, won a gold medal. The Mary Rosa, being inspected by Ian Clarke (left), and Ian Baker, won a silver medal for Peter Moran of Ackington Prison. (Photographs: Bill Warhurst).



88m days lost to arthritis

Arthritis accounts for the loss of 88 million working days in Britain each year, far more than the losses caused by strikes (our Science Correspondent writes).

The crippling disease costs more than £3 billion a year in lost wages, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council said yesterday.

The North-east of England is the worst affected region, losing more than nine million working days at a cost of more than £285 million.

The council's report, published to mark its fiftieth anniversary, said: "Despite these figures there is more hope for people with arthritis than there was 50 years ago.

A drug to protect people from arthritis could be available within the next five to 10 years through advances in genetic engineering.

Professor Ravinder Maini, chairman of the council's research committee, is investigating potential therapies at the Charing Cross Hospital, London, where he is professor of immunology and rheumatic diseases.

Water rate to rise by average 8%

By Hugh Clayton
Environment Correspondent

Water rates in most of England and Wales will rise by an average of 8 per cent in the spring, according to the latest government forecast, based on talks with the 10 water authorities.

It will be the second successive year that millions of householders face water charges increases higher than the cost of living. But ministers do not expect any water authority to raise charges by more than 10 per cent, although some feared late last year that charges might have to go up by as much as 13 per cent.

The rises will mean that most householders will pay less than 30p a day still for water supplies, and sewerage services. The highest average charge last year was £105.98 a year, or 29p a day, in the Anglian area. The lowest was £76.16 a year, or 21p a day, in the Severn-Trent region, which includes Birmingham, a much of the Midlands.

The large increases will be caused by the Government's insistence again on accelerated repayment of water authority debts and on shorter-term financing of new equipment.

Demand for water continues to creep upwards. Total water supplies in England and Wales rose by more than half between 1960 and 1984 to reach 16.5 billion litres a day.

Less than a tenth of the purified water that enters households is drunk. The latest estimates from the Water Authorities' Association show that the main single use of water is to flush lavatories. More than a third of the water used is for making tea.

Food poison source may never be traced

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Scientists investigating the salmonella infection at the Farley baby food factory in Kendal, Cumbria, are becoming increasingly concerned that the source of the outbreak may never be found.

Failure to identify precisely the circumstances leading to the contamination of milk products will leave troubling questions unanswered, in spite of improved safety procedures likely to be introduced by the company, as a result of the incident.

Since November, 43 cases of food poisoning, involving 31 babies under a year old, have been linked to the factory. A baby in Manchester has died.

Circumstantial evidence had implicated a case of *Salmonella enteritidis* - a rare strain of the bacterium found in the factory - with a dairy cow in the county.

That animal was found to have the infection last April. A four-year-old child in the farmer's family also showed symptoms, but although the family drank unpasteurized milk from the herd, no trace of the bacterium was found in the milk when it was tested by many inspectors.

Milk from that herd is taken into the Farley plant in a raw form, but is then subjected to heat treatment, much more intense than the norm for pasteurization.

The milk is treated for up to 25 times as long, at temperatures about 17 per cent higher.

Milk from the apparently contaminated herd was excluded from the factory after the April tests, and when Ministry of Agriculture inspectors again tested the herd before Christmas, they found no signs of it.

Scientists have now almost completely ruled out the cattle connection and suspect that the infection of the baby food took place after the milk had been heat-treated, evaporated, reduced to powder and dried, but before it was packed into containers.

Earlier this week, traces of the bacterium were found in the factory's cleaning system. Investigators now have to consider who, or what, was the carrier of the infection.

All 320 staff at the factory are submitting stool samples for analysis, for the second time. Those tests have so far shown no evidence of salmonella, and a third round of samples is now likely to be analysed.

"We may never know the answer but we sincerely hope we will find it," Mr Brian Hales, chief environmental health officer for the area, said yesterday.

"It is the most mysterious case of food poisoning on a national scale that I have known in 30 years in this type of work."

Alleged rape victim wins court order

A lawyer who claims she was raped more than three years ago yesterday won a court order against her alleged attacker.

Miss Beverley Hayles, aged 32, was granted an interim injunction at Birmingham County Court restraining Keith Desmond Burgher, aged 28, from "assaulting, molesting or interfering" with her. The order is effective until January 17.

Miss Hayles, who asked that her address be withheld, has claimed damages for alleged rape although police have not charged Mr Burgher with such an offence.

He arrived at court, handcuffed to an officer from Winson Green Prison, where he is on remand in connection with an unrelated alleged offence. He was not legally represented and, when Judge Gosling asked him if he admitted the offence of rape, much of his reply was unclear.

But he claimed he had a female witness who could allege that Miss Hayles went to his house "to have a bit of going on".

Mr Stephen Jones, for Miss Hayles, told the court: "What is alleged here is a particularly savage assault and rape on the plaintiff, and her false imprisonment. The alleged incident took place over three years ago." She had no known Mr Burgher, of no fixed address.

Mr Jones said he believed the case was the first of its kind.

'Political training' for teachers

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

Teachers should be trained to teach "political competence" so that children grow up to be good citizens, according to Ian Lister, professor of education at York University.

The school of political education in schools is threefold, he maintains: to promote an ideal of common citizenship; to revive patriotic loyalty and to develop wider loyalties, with some concern for European affairs and for global issues, and to encourage tolerance, even celebration, of difference and diversity.

Addressing the North of England education conference in Huddersfield yesterday, Professor Lister said schools faced a crisis. They were out of alignment with the changing world of work, with our political culture, and with community life. A new relationship was needed between education and political, economic and community leaders.

Schools must promote "a positive pluralism" so that cultures and races were respected. "Teachers, or others, who present only one-sided accounts of controversial questions, or who claim 'there is no alternative', are rightly suspect", he said.

New teachers were asked to promote unity through diversity, he said. This was not easy. "After the fate of the Rampton committee (into the education of ethnic minorities) and after the Honeyford affair we cannot underestimate the sensitive nature of the whole area."

The crisis in education was related to the radical change in work which was coming with the decline of industrialism, he said. Nowadays children needed to develop and practise their skills rather than regurgitate facts; they needed to be assessed on whether they could do things rather than whether they knew things.

Although Professor Lister believed that teacher training was ripe for review, he did not like what the Government was doing. Under the new system Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, can withhold approval of a teacher training course if it does not meet his criteria.

Those criteria state that would-be primary school teachers should spend more than 100 hours in studying mathematics teaching and another 100 hours studying language teaching. Aspiring secondary school teachers should have done a degree which included at least two years on the subject they wanted to teach.

"This has the interesting implication that someone who has studied PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) at Oxford is not qualified to teach any subject, as a main subject, in a secondary school."

Professor John Tomlinson, director of the University of Warwick's Institute of Education, told the conference that new ways were needed of assessing children in place of the current examination system, which meant that most children left school having failed and only a proportion succeeded.

Drinking spree led to road death

A Smithfield porter's six-hour drinking spree led to the death of a pensioner in a "horrific" road crash, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Colin Longford, aged 26, a meat market porter, of Rodney Road, Mitcham, was jailed for a year and banned from driving for 30 months after pleading guilty to causing the death by reckless driving of Mr James Shaw, aged 67, who lived at Marsh Avenue, Mitcham.

The Recorder, Mr. Audrey Myerson, QC, said Longford had consumed at least seven pints of lager before the noon crash at a busy junction in London Road, Mitcham, on May 2 last year.

Mr Lindsay Burn for the prosecution, said Longford had driven past a red traffic light at a speed estimated by witnesses at between 30mph and 50mph. He hit another car then struck Mr Shaw.

Eden rejected idea of union strike ballots

In the last of his surveys of Cabinet documents for 1955 released this week at the Public Records Office, DAVID WALKER finds that Sir Anthony Eden considered policies later adopted by Mrs Thatcher on trade unions, vocational education and the building of an official convention centre opposite Westminster Abbey.

A quarter of a century before Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative government led by Sir Anthony Eden considered forcing trade unions to hold secret ballots before taking strike action. A secret Cabinet memorandum prepared by Sir Walter Monckton, the Minister of Labour, discusses how to combat "a serious deterioration in industrial relations".

The first suggestion is to impose a legal requirement of a secret ballot before strike action. "To protect the individual member from pressure and to encourage a high proportion of the membership to vote, it might be preferable in some cases for the ballot to be conducted by post, and in national disputes of major importance it might be desirable for the results to be published for the information of the public", Sir Walter said.

A file of Eden's personal correspondence now available shows that he was lobbied by Lord Nuffield, founder of the Morris motor car company, Nuffield came privately to 10 Downing Street and told Eden that after a lifetime in the car industry he believed a secret ballot alone could solve industrial problems.

He went to warn Eden that the Electrical Trades Union, forrunner of the EETPU of today, was in a "dangerous situation, being communist-led". It was a prime example, Nuffield said, of a union which would be much better if its officials were elected by secret ballot.

Within five years the ETU was wracked by allegations of ballot rigging and a fierce internal battle which brought the present Lord Chappell to power. But Eden was unconvinced, and took Monckton's conciliatory line.

Monckton, in a memorandum, said: "It is essential that any government initiative in the field of industrial relations should carry the greatest possible measure of TUC approval and concurrence."

The minister believed that secret ballots would not end unofficial action, which was then rife in the docks and transport industries. He hoped (vainly as it turned out) that TUC could help reduce the volume of inter-union demarcation disputes.

Home computer firm to shed 250 jobs and end UK output

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

The American home computer company, Commodore International has shut its production line in Corby, Northamptonshire, making 250 people redundant but keeping 170 people for its marketing and service operation in the United Kingdom.

The company's decision comes a year after the group announced 100 redundancies at Corby after poor sales in previous Christmas.

Commodore claims that it is too early to determine the sales success of its machines this Christmas but that the job losses are due to the company rationalizing its manufacturing outlets worldwide. Corby is an assembly plant and does not fit into its new strategy, the company claims.

Commodore, whose Commodore 64 is among the most popular home computers in Britain, will concentrate its production on four plants: West Germany, Hong Kong and two in the United States. The bulk of the Corby assembly goes to West Germany.

According to Mr Thomas Rattigan, Commodore's president: "The corporate management of Commodore, including our UK general manager, have shared in this decision. Commodore's major priority is to meet the competitive challenge of the next two or three years, and to do this the company is going to be increasingly dependent upon fewer and higher technology plants. Corby, being essentially an assembly plant, does not easily fit into this strategy."

Commodore has run down the manufacturing workforce at Corby during the past year. After last January's staff reductions the workforce totalled 600 and was trimmed again to 420 by the end of last year.

Sales during the last 12 months have been particularly poor in the home and personal computer market and especially for Commodore International. The company declared losses in September for the fourth quarter ending in June of \$124 million, (£86 million) compared with a profit of \$33 million for the same period in the previous year. Losses for the financial year were \$113.9 million against a \$143.8 million profit the year before.

Commodore's problems are not unique. In the UK after a poor 1984 Christmas sales retailers were left with huge stocks due to over optimistic sales forecasts. A price war ensued and Sinclair, Acorn and then Commodore slashed prices in the new year. The price of the Sinclair Spectrum was reduced by £50 to £130. Acorn, the manufacturer of the BBC Microcomputer and the Electron by £70 to match Sinclair. Commodore followed suit.

Within weeks Acorn was struggling and it was forced to suspend its shares on the Unlisted Securities Market. By May Sinclair was also in deep financial trouble. Its principal creditors, Thorn EMI, Timex and AB Electronics, all manufacturers of Sinclair products, and the company's bankers Citibank and Barclays were owed a total of about £15 million. They ended the computer group's credit.

Smiths Crisp are to close their most processing plant in Corby in two weeks with the loss of 140 jobs.

£750 fine in pirate video case

A video shop manager was fined £750 after pleading guilty to possessing pirate videos under the Video Recordings Act 1984, at Highgate Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Five copies of Telephone, a popular Indian film, were found at the V & A Video Centre, North Finchley, north London, when the police raided the shop on October 15 last year. Dhanji Varsani, of Churchfield Ave, pleaded guilty.

'Overfed' baby died naturally

A baby who was treated for over-feeding died from cot death syndrome after being sent home from hospital, an inquest was told yesterday.

Gerald Fantini, aged 14 weeks, was being fed 9oz of powdered milk every two hours, instead of 6oz to 7oz every three to four hours, when he was admitted to King's College Hospital, south London, suffering from vomiting.

Dr Fiona Campbell, senior house officer, told the inquest at Southwark that the child was treated for over-feeding and the brand of the powdered milk changed before he was sent home. The next day he died.

Recording that he died from natural causes, Sir Montague Levine, the coroner, said: "The parents have to be shown it is not through their fault that this child died."

Insurance group goes into estate agency

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The Prudential Corporation, Britain's largest life insurance company, enters the estate agency market this week with the former launch of Prudential Property Services in the East Anglia area.

In addition to home sales, estate agency comes after its acquisition of the east Anglian firm of Ekins Dilly and Handley, with 12 offices. In a statement, the company said it regarded the PPS launch as a natural extension to the range of insurance and other financial services it provided.

Mr Tony Freeman, new chairman of PPS, said when the project was first announced last June, that it was a success. Prudential would embark on a big expansion in the estate agency field.

TV series studies couple's courtship and marriage

A couple from South Wales are the subject of a six-part television study into courtship, marriage and beyond. The first part of the experiment, by the television producer Desmond Wilcox, is to be shown on Wednesday on BBC1.

The cameras follow Marc, an hotel manager, aged 28, and Karen, aged 21, a psychiatric nurse, from their engagement through their wedding to their first year of marriage.

The first episode shows Marc, widely regarded as "one of the boys", promising to change his way of life after marriage to Karen whom he met at a dance in Porthcawl, Mid-Glamorgan. Karen talks about sex and her parents' attitude towards her and Marc, although she plans a white church wedding.

They are followed on their honeymoon in Copenhagen through financial worries and problems with their love life.

Mr Wilcox said the film crew never felt they were being overly obtrusive. "We simply filmed them as they were. There was no performance for the cameras", he said at the film's launch.

The series, made by BBC Scotland, is the first time such a first-hand study of the joys and pitfalls of married life has been attempted and Mr Wilcox admits it was a daunting task. "We filmed them over a period of about a year roughly every two weeks."

"They tried us everything that was likely to happen and everything you see is completely spontaneous."

Marc confessed that the series made him learn a lot about Karen. "By watching it we realized things about each other we never knew. In a way I think it has made us all the more close."

Karen, who qualified as a nurse last month, said the nature of the cameras and questioning took a lot of getting used to. "But after a while we just got on with the way we would have behaved anyway. There were certain things we might not have said because we were being filmed, but otherwise it was completely natural."

The couple, who live in Cardiff, married in June, 1984. They were chosen from 3,000 hopefuls for the series after replying to press advertisements four months before their wedding. Mr Wilcox said they had been chosen because they were young, articulate and seemed ideal.

British plea to commute death penalty

The British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur has asked the Malaysian government to commute the death sentence imposed on a British-born welder for drug smuggling.

The National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad, said yesterday the move was more than welcome, after criticism that the Government was not taking sufficient action.

Kevin Barlow, aged 28, has dual Australian-British citizenship.



Kevin Barlow, a last appeal

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Tehran pledge to support Gadaffi raises tension closer to breaking point

By Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent

As a US naval task force led by the aircraft carrier Coral Sea left Naples yesterday for an undisclosed destination in the Mediterranean, Iran announced that it would respond to any American attack on Libya and give its "unwavering support" to Colonel Gadaffi's regime in the event of a "foreign invasion".

The Israeli air force is still claiming about Syria's anti-aircraft missile deployment inside its frontier with Lebanon, while Israel's continued occupation of the Lebanese town of Tyre has provoked new attacks on its Lebanese militia allies by the growing confrontation.

In Tripoli, the Libyan capital, the Government-controlled radio claimed that large anti-American demonstrations in the towns and cities throughout the country had promised in defence of a Libya against US or Israeli attack.

With Israel now threatening to retaliate for rocket attacks on northern Galilee from southern Lebanon as well as for the massacre by Palestinian guerrillas at Rame and Vienna, the Middle East is now embroiled in one of those all-too-familiar periods of intense political anxiety and sabre-rattling that usually precedes military action.

PLO claims shot driver was Mossad agent

Beirut (AFP) - Force 17, a PLO group, claimed responsibility yesterday for the murder on Thursday of a taxi driver near Tel Aviv, and claimed that he was an agent of the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad.

An anonymous telephone caller to a news agency here said that a commando named after Ali Zeibak, one of 70 victims of the October 1 Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis, had killed the taxi driver.

out terrorism as the motive (David Bernstein reports from Jerusalem). The driver, Mr Yaacov Hashvili, from Ramle, south-east of Tel Aviv, had been shot in the head at close range.

Police say they are considering all possibilities, including terrorism. They note that Mr Hashvili was not known to them, and had no criminal record.

This was the second recent attack on a Jewish taxi, and follows the stabbing of a driver in Jerusalem last week.

US considers military strike

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The Reagan Administration, furious at Colonel Gadaffi's support for international terrorism, is reviewing possibilities for a military strike against Libya, while urging West European allies to follow the US lead in imposing political and economic sanctions.

The aircraft carrier Coral Sea has sailed from Naples, and US forces in the central Mediterranean are being strengthened. Options for military retaliation, either in support or independent of any Israeli action, are being kept open, and the Pentagon has drawn up a contingency list of bombing targets.

The Administration is also considering a reward for the capture of Abu Nidal, the terrorist leader thought to be sheltering in Libya.

State Department officials are meanwhile expected to seek urgent meetings to persuade allied leaders to cut all trade and economic links with Libya in a concerted effort to cripple the country's economy.

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary, yesterday called on trading partners around the world to do more,

mainly in restricting oil imports from Libya.

The Administration has used ominous language in denouncing the Libyan leader. "We particularly abhor Gadaffi's making excuses for the indiscriminate slaughter of innocent men, women and children, and rejecting the fact that these were pure acts of terrorism," the State Department spokesman says. President Reagan angrily denounced "fellas who think it's all right to shoot 11-year-old girls".

Despite nationwide anger and frustration at the repeated killing of Americans by terrorists, the Administration is cautious about its military options, refusing to discuss contingency plans. Though publicly scolding to reply to Colonel Gadaffi's threat against Americans in Libya, it is well aware of the danger to the 1,500 \$860million (\$600million) in US citizens there, whom it has urged repeatedly to leave.

Washington is also anxious that any military strike should not so arouse the Arab world that it endangers the peace process and weakens further the position of Arab moderates such as King Hussein of Jordan.



Lord Carrington (left) with Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, on the steps of Madrid's Moncloa Palace yesterday. Señor Narcis Serra, the Defence Minister, is in the centre.

Nato may bend rules for Spain

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's withdrawal would mean "a very grave weakening" of the Atlantic alliance, Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary General, said here yesterday. But he linked this with a clear indication that the other Nato governments might be agreeable to Spain achieving its own special degree of participation in Western defence.

Lord Carrington made his audience laugh when he told a joint press conference with Señor González, the Spanish Prime Minister, that as he was "in a sense, the chief of Nato, I naturally prefer the menu but I understand if there are those who prefer to eat à la carte".

Spanish membership of Nato à la carte is the phrase coined here to cover Madrid's desire of not integrating fully into Nato's command structure, and

Reagan flies in for Mexican summit

From John Carlin, Mexicali, Mexico

Economic and financial measures to allay fears of social unrest in Mexico were expected to be high on the agenda as President Reagan arrived by helicopter in this border town for talks with President de la Madrid.

According to American officials, President Reagan will express support for the request Mexico has made to the international financial community for new loans this year (totaling \$4 billion (£2.7 billion)).

At least this amount will be needed, according to economists. If it is to continue making debt payments to the banks - most of them American - and sustain a system of subsidies deemed essential to prevent widespread labour unrest.

Washington has been increasingly alarmed during the past year at the spectacle of a Mexican government apparently losing both its economic grip and its political credibility, a state which was accelerated by brazen fraud in elections in July and the earthquake catastrophe in September.

Mexico, the third biggest trading partner of the US, was obliged this week to cut the price of its oil by 90 cents, to \$24 a barrel. The prospect of a price fall this year could prove disastrous for Mexico, the economy of which depends heavily on oil for export income



Safer birth for women over 35

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

It has become safer for American women over 35 to have babies. The rate of deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth has halved in the past 10 years, a report published yesterday said.

Since more women over 35 are becoming mothers for the first time, many having postponed starting a family for career reasons, the report is encouraging.

Between 1974 and 1978 the mortality rate among older women was 47.5 per 100,000 live births. In 1982 it had fallen to 24.2 deaths. In 1974-78, 9.5 per cent of women over 35 having babies were having their first child. In 1982, the percentage was 14.7 per cent.

The death rate has declined for a number of reasons, including medical advances and a greater awareness of the dangers of drugs, smoking, alcohol and poor diet. Also, women are having fewer children, and fewer children lessen the risk. In the 1970s many women over 35 were having their fourth or fifth child. In the 1980s, they are having their first or second.

The fall in the death rate can also be attributed to the higher economic and social status of older women having children. In general, poorer people have higher mortality rates.

The report, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, says "although older women will probably continue to be at higher risk of maternal death, recent trends should be reassuring to younger women considering postponement of pregnancy and to women 35 or older contemplating pregnancy."

Two Arabs charged in Belgium

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Two suspected Arab terrorists who were arrested in Belgium on Monday were yesterday charged with forming a "criminal association" with the intention of attacking persons and property and remained in custody for a month.

But it is still not clear whether the two men, who arrived in Brussels the day after the airport massacres at Rome and Vienna, were connected with these attacks.

Investigation into the two Arabs and an alleged Belgian accomplice is taking place amid strict secrecy and security.

Neither nor their nationality has yet been released. The court hearing yesterday at Hasselt, not far from Brussels, was held in closed session. There were reports that the two suspects had been named in court.

They were observed by police at Brussels airport when they arrived from Athens last Saturday, and were followed to the home in Hasselt of a Belgian arms dealer named Danny Engels, at first identified by police only by his initials.

Police uncovered a large arms cache as well as explosives at Mr Engels' home and at his video shop in Hasselt. He has previous convictions for illegal possession of arms, and was also remanded at yesterday's hearing. The explosives included 24lbs of TNT of East European origin.

There are reports that Signor Domenico Sica, the examining magistrate in Rome, would travel to Brussels shortly to investigate possible links between the two Arabs and the attack at Rome airport, but the Belgian authorities could not confirm these.

Security at Brussels airport has been tightened since the attacks and there is speculation that Brussels was on a second hit list with Paris and Madrid.



A farwelled embrace for President Gornayel of Lebanon (right) from President Assad of Syria in Damascus yesterday, after a round of inconclusive talks.

Readers take sides over divorce story

From Mary Lee, Peking

A real-life family drama, centring on the issue of divorce, which unfolded in print in early December has drawn many letters in support of ending loveless marriages. The case involves a 50-year-old man, Mr Yang An, (a pseudonym) and his 39-year-old wife, Ms Zhou Jing (also a pseudonym).

Mr Yang sued for divorce in 1983 after a 13-year marriage which they had entered into during the Cultural Revolution believing that they were "a good match politically". The *China Legal News* which first ran the story commented: "At that time, the political background was the main consideration, even in marriage."

Today, according to the *Canton Daily*, the typical young woman looking for a husband insists on the "three highs" - a higher salary than hers, a high educational level and that he be more than 5ft 6in tall.

Ms Zhou raised strong objections to the divorce, which was granted a year later. The court's decision sent the wife into "hysterical paralysis". She threatened suicide but later agreed to the divorce on the condition that Mr Yang paid her 30,000 yuan (about £7,000).

Mr Yang was unable to raise that amount of money, and the court "had to withhold its verdict" which in turn sent the husband into despair. He also threatened to commit suicide.

The case has so far drawn more than 400 letters of comments from readers, *China Legal News* said. Many who supported the husband said Ms Zhou's demands were unjustifiable and that the court should not yield to her suicide threat.

Sympathy for Mr Yang is also based on the fact that, Ms Zhou selected a gynaecological disorder which ended their sex life and shattered their hopes of having a child.

Mr Zhang Youyu, president of the Law Society, also wrote to the paper saying "Divorce is not a bad thing for society and a couple who have lost their affection for each other and cannot tolerate living together."

Letters in support of the woman condemned Mr Yang for trying to divorce a sick wife who had no relatives to whom she could turn.

China Legal News said it published the case in detail to solicit readers' opinions on the legal and ethical issues involved.

A Peking district court official was quoted as saying that some people refused to divorce "simply because they want to take revenge on their marital partners". Others said that such refusals were due to difficulties of remarriage and consideration for the children. (The couple adopted a child in 1981).

Since 1981, when the marriage law was revised and allowed for "complete alienation of mutual affection" as grounds

Tax men catch up with Paris madame

Paris (Reuters) - Fernando Grubet, better known as the notorious Madame Claude who once operated France's biggest luxury call-girl network, is under arrest on charges of owing 11 million francs (£1 million) in back taxes, officials said yesterday.

The 62-year-old "madame", who ran the most exclusive and expensive call-girl service in Paris in the 1960s and 1970s, was arrested on New Year's Eve in a small country house in the south-western village of Cagnac.

Already sentenced several times on tax and procuring charges, Madame Claude fled to the US in 1977 but is believed to have returned shortly before her arrest, planning to see in the New Year with Françoise Sagan, the novelist and her village neighbour.

Hostages in jail rising freed

New York - The prison rebellion in West Virginia, in which three prisoners were stabbed to death, ended yesterday with the release of the remaining seven hostages and talks on the inmates' grievances (Trevor Fishlock writes).

The deal between the prisoners' leaders and the authorities ended the 42-hour rebellion in which about 300 men seized the prison and took 16 prison staff as hostages. The officials promised no reprisals but insisted on taking action against those responsible for the killings.

Mission five die in ambush

Harare (AP) - Unita rebels ambushed and killed five Angolans from the Caluquembe mission hospital staffed by Canadians in the south-west Huila province on New Year's Eve, a Canadian diplomat, Mr James Fox, reported.

Two Brazilian nursing sisters with the party were believed to have been abducted.

18 die in Peru guerrilla attack

Lima (AP) - Sixteen peasants and two rebels were killed when Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas attacked the village of Agua Blanca, in Huánuco department, on New Year's Day, according to a military communiqué.

The guerrillas were killed by members of a civil defence patrol formed by villagers under military guidance.

Workers held in Fossey inquiry

Kigali, Rwanda (Reuters) - Police have detained several dozen workers from a remote research station formerly run by the American gorilla expert, Dian Fossey, aged 53, who was murdered last month, a US Embassy official said.

Friends in Nairobi speculated that Ms Fossey might have been killed by poachers, but the embassy official said police had not confirmed this.

Poachers shot

Harare (AP) - Zimbabwean game rangers this week shot dead four Zambian poachers in the Zambezi valley where black rhino herds are threatened with extinction. The poachers, armed with high velocity rifles, fired back before being killed.

Dhaka protest

Dhaka (Reuters) - About 25,000 striking Government doctors, engineers and agriculturalists marched through the Bangladesh capital in protest at the arrest of seven colleagues.

Australians drink most in English-speaking world

Sydney (AFP) - Australians

drink more than any other English-speaking people, according to a survey published in *The Medical Journal of Australia*, which also expressed concern over drinking by children.

It said Australia ranked 12th in the world overall for per capita alcohol consumption, and that there had been a significant increase in drinking by women in recent years.

A cause of concern was excessive drinking by children. Four per cent of children under 11 drank six or more glasses of alcohol a day and 10 per cent aged 11 and older drank every day.

Health Department statistics showed that in 1981 there were 1,175 deaths attributable to alcohol in the 15-to-34 age group, compared with 371 from illegal drugs.

A drug education specialist, Mr Stephen Wallace, of Victoria College, Melbourne, said "a considerable proportion of Australian society adheres to the credo that any excuse will do to get drunk."

Sri Lanka checks tea exports for poison

Colombo (Reuters) - Sri Lanka is checking all tea exports

after the British and US embassies received warnings that arsenic had been put in consignments, anti-poison sources said here yesterday.

The Sri Lanka Government and Sri Lanka Tea Board strongly denied that Tamil guerrillas had mixed arsenic powder in a consignment of tea for export but confirmed that "precautions" were being taken.

"There is nothing new in this type of threat. There have been similar ones earlier and necessary precautions were taken then. Similar precautions are being taken now," a Tea Board spokesman said.

A senior official for a leading

firm which exports tea mainly to the US said the British and US embassies had received letters warning that tea consignments meant for export had been poisoned.

"We took serious notice of these threats and halted shipments and are checking on all consignments," said the official, who did not want to be named.

He said the firm would resume tea exports after it was satisfied tea had not been poisoned. The firm believed the warning was a hoax but it was taking all precautions. Tea is Sri Lanka's main foreign exchange earner.

In Calcutta, centre for the tea trade in India, the world's largest producer and exporter, a leading newspaper said guerrillas fighting for a separate Tamil state had poisoned tea exports to harm the Sri Lankan economy.

The *Calcutta Telegraph* said that according to rumours in the tea trade, arsenic powder was mixed with a large tea consignment for export to the US.

British Department of Health said yesterday "We are aware of threats to contaminate tea with arsenic or potassium cyanide, but there is no evidence to suggest that anything like this has happened. It is certainly still safe to drink tea imported from Sri Lanka and we shall be keeping close watch to ensure that it remains so."

Police ban remembrance for rights activist in South African township

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South African police have banned a memorial service for Mrs Molly Blackman, the civil rights activist, due to be held today in the black township of Port Elizabeth.

Brigadier Ernest Schaefer, divisional commissioner of police, said he stopped the memorial under emergency regulations because he believed it could endanger public safety. Port Elizabeth has been one of the main flashpoints of township unrest.

Mrs Blackman was killed in a car crash last Saturday and 20,000 blacks from all over the Eastern Cape gathered for her funeral in Port Elizabeth on Thursday.

Mrs Di Bishop, another leading civil rights activist who was badly injured in the crash, said yesterday: "The only reason I can think of for the ban is that they find this kind of occasion a threat to the survival of apartheid".

Mrs Helen Suzman, the veteran Progressive Federal

Party MP, described the ban as a "confounded shame".

She said: "It demonstrates the Government's inability to tolerate what would be an enormous outpouring of regard for her sterling work among blacks".

Meanwhile Dr Wendy Orr, the young white South African doctor, who took the police to court over their assaults on blacks held under the state of emergency, has resigned from her post with the Cape Provincial Health Authority after receiving death threats over the telephone.

She said yesterday: "I have been very unhappy for some time and the death threats have just added to my misery".

Late last year Dr Orr and 43 other applicants obtained an injunction from the Port Elizabeth Supreme Court ordering the police to refrain from systematically assaulting detainees.

At the time she was employed as a district surgeon by the health authority, she was given new duties treating elderly patients under Cape provincial care, which meant she would no longer be in contact with detainees held under the state of emergency.

Dr Orr, who plans to start a US tour in April at the invitation of the US Information Service, said she had applied for an interim post with a clinic in the Alexandria black township outside Johannesburg.

She said the threats to her life had been reported to the police and she had changed her address and taken an unlisted telephone number.

Police yesterday reported four more deaths in continued black township violence - bringing the toll for the first three days of the year to at least 20. All four were killed in black-on-black attacks, according to police.



Bedouin smugglers being paraded by police at Bilbeis, Egypt, yesterday in front of a cache of hashish slabs and a Russian AK47 rifle. The men were arrested with the haul in the desert east of Cairo.

Cocaine leads rise in world drugs abuse

Vienna (AFP) - Worldwide abuse of drugs, especially cocaine, rose last year despite stiff anti-drug measures in many countries, the International Narcotics Control Board said in its annual report released yesterday.

The board, a UN body, said co-ordinated action was imperative for progress to be made. But the report noted that police had scored some successes, with stiffer penalties for traffickers, destruction of drug-related crops and tighter control of chemicals used to process the raw materials into finished products.

In Europe, most narcotics came from abroad, although there was an attempt to grow

illicit opium poppies in Italy and Spain which was speedily ended by the authorities, the report said.

"It is estimated that approximately 30 per cent of the opiates available in the region originate in the Near and Middle East and South Asia, while 20 per cent originate in South-east Asia."

The report said large quantities of heroin were seized in 1985, but there were signs that it was less available than in 1984. A record haul of 133lb destined for the United States was seized in October 1985 by Austrian police. Most of the traffickers were Iranians.

The countries which reported to Interpol the largest seizures were, in descending order: Britain, France, The Netherlands, West Germany and Italy.

The study also reported increased use of cocaine, originating from South America.

"Availability of and trafficking in cocaine have increased sharply in recent years, indicating the determined efforts of traffickers to expand the illicit market in Western Europe. In 1984, for the second consecutive year, more than one tonne of cocaine was seized. Seizures reported to Interpol during the first half of 1985 amounted to almost half a tonne."

The countries reporting the largest total seizures were:

Spain, West Germany, Britain, France, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

In the United States, the abuse of drugs, often in combination, "remains a serious health problem". Quoting 1984 figures it said cannabis was the most widely used drug, although consumption dropped by an estimated 3 per cent, mainly because of less use by young people.

Cocaine abuse was estimated to have increased by 11 per cent although the US authorities expected the number of abusers to stabilize. Heroin consumption fell slightly in 1984 but deaths from heroin and morphine increased by 31 per cent.

Oslo - (Reuters) - Two convicts with credit cards have run up bills totalling three million kroner (£275,000) on a round-the-world spending spree since escaping from a Norwegian jail three months ago.

Atlantic rescue for record bid crew

Corunna (Reuters) - Five surviving crew of a giant French catamaran which foundered off the Spanish coast during a transatlantic record bid were airlifted to a hospital in this northwestern Spanish city.

Coastguard officials said a sixth crew member, Jean Castennet, went missing when the yacht Jet Services, named after the sponsor company, capsized in a gale three days ago and was presumed dead.

Doctors at the hospital in Corunna said one of the crew, Mark Grillemat, was seriously injured. But the skipper, Atlantic record-holder Patrick Morvan, and three other crew members were in good health.

Karajan check

Vienna (AFP) - Herbert von Karajan, the conductor, has cancelled two concerts here on January 11 and 12 to travel to the United States for a medical check-up. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra announced. He is 77.

Convict spree

Oslo - (Reuters) - Two convicts with credit cards have run up bills totalling three million kroner (£275,000) on a round-the-world spending spree since escaping from a Norwegian jail three months ago.

Women police

Delhi (Reuters) - The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said he was setting up a special women-only police battalion to give women better representation in India's security forces.

Hashish haul

Delhi (Reuters) - Three tonnes of hashish worth £1 million were seized in India's biggest narcotics haul when customs officials raided a cargo of chemicals bound for West Germany.

Not so decadent

Peking (Reuters) - Performance in Shanghai of music by Beethoven, who was banned as decadent in the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution, have drawn more than 24,000 people since September, the New China news agency said.

Fungus export

Peking (Reuters) - China has added an ancient tonic to its menu of exports for Japanese and Hong Kong gourmets: chicken prepared with caterpillar fungus. The tonic for lung and kidney ailments is part of a drive to export medicinal foods.

Fear of the unknown US gripped by Aids hysteria

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Health authorities in Boston are being bedegged by a doctor who wants Aids victims sent to an island off the Massachusetts coast that was once a leper colony.

Fear of Aids is as much a phenomenon as Aids itself. Although no one knows whether the virus is spread through saliva, an Aids carrier in Michigan has been charged with trying to murder four policemen by spitting at them.

Numerous voices in America are being raised in an effort to calm anxiety and hysteria. But in many minds Aids has taken on the terrifying characteristics of a plague.

Some churches have stopped using the common communion cup. People have become nervous about eating in restaurants with homosexual staff. A couple visiting New Orleans reported being so frightened of eating out that they lived off tinned food in their hotel room.

In cities like New York and San Francisco, with high levels of Aids, an insurance company insists on blood tests.

Many health specialists are convinced that casual contact does not spread Aids and say there is no evidence that it is spread by shared glasses or

sneezes, or by touching an Aids victim. But they cannot be categorical in their assurances.

Experts say people stand a greater chance of being struck by lightning than by Aids. But many people do not trust experts, and there is a strong feeling of "better safe than sorry".

So there is heavy pressure on local authorities to "do something". New York has reacted by closing two notorious homosexual houses on the grounds that they were places of "high risk" sexual activity. New York has a third of all the Aids cases in the US.

Many health specialists believe that closing these places does nothing to attack the disease. Authorities like New York's are accused of appealing a panicky public rather than tackling the problem through education. Mr Edward Koch, the mayor, called sex house owners "merchants of death".

Aids is spread primarily through sodomy, the sharing of infected needles among drug addicts and infected blood. Nearly three-quarters of American victims are homosexual or bisexual.

The number of drug addicts catching the disease is increasing sharply. A third of the new

cases this year are addicts. Many frequent the "shooting galleries" in this city where a dirty needle can be rented.

Many authorities are enacting or proposing laws in response to concern about Aids. There are proposals that health and food workers should be certificated as being free of Aids. In several parts of the country children with Aids are banned from school.

Service men are being screened for the disease. Those who have used drugs or engaged in homosexual practices are being discharged.

Since the death from Aids of Rock Hudson, the actor, there has been a large increase in calls to Aids information centres. The Screen Actors Guild has declared open-mouth kissing dangerous and says actors can refuse to do it.

All 50 US states now have Aids cases. More than 15,000 have been diagnosed and half the victims have died. The number of cases is doubling each year and it is estimated that between 700,000 and 1.4 million Americans carry the virus.

No one can say how many of these will develop the disease. That is part of the uncertainty that causes the fear.

China invites bishop home to see mother

From Mary Lee, Peking

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Hong Kong, John Baptist Wu, who has been encouraged by the Pope to develop contacts with the Peking Government and with the Chinese "Patriotic Catholic Church", is soon to visit his mother for the first time in 40 years, in Guangdong Province.

Bishop Wu, who is 60, visited Peking in March, the first Chinese Catholic bishop to do since 1949.

His reunion with his mother, in his native Wu Hui county, is the result of an invitation from the provincial branch of the Peking Religious Affairs Bureau. Diplomats say that it has more to do with efforts to win over people with Taiwan links to work towards reunification of the two Chinas than with any desire to improve relations with the Vatican.

Any progress Sino-Vatican relations from such a visit would be incidental, they say, and would be hampered by what Peking sees as Vatican

interference in China's internal affairs, that is, in its dealings with Taiwan.

Bishop Wu left his home village after the Sino-Japanese War in 1945 to study in the South China Regional Seminary in Hong Kong before going to Italy, the United States and then Taiwan, where he was a parish priest for 16 years.

The "Patriotic Catholic Church" severed links with the Vatican in 1957, since when it has trained, ordained and appointed its own priests and bishops. Chinese Church officials say that there are 100,000 Catholics in Guangdong.

Six Hong Kong officials, including two priests and a man, will accompany Bishop Wu on his 10-day visit, which begins on January 21. He will also see his younger brother and is expected to call on the provincial governor, Mr Ye Xuanping, son of the ill and ageing Chinese leader, Marshal Ye Jianying.

Burkina says Mali plot caused war

Paris (Reuters) - Burkina Faso has blamed the outbreak of a five-day war with Mali last week on a Malian plot to topple the left-wing Burkinabe Government, and has denied that it was caused by a frontier dispute.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Basile Guissou, speaking in Paris, accused Mali of attacking Burkina Faso in an attempt to overthrow the Government of President Thomas Sankara.

"The fact that the fighting was along the full length of our frontier, that foreign elements in Mali, opponents of our Government, were in Malian Army ranks... show that the aim was to overthrow a political system," Mr Guissou said.

Burkina Faso and Mali, two of the world's poorest countries, went to war on Christmas Day. The fighting was generally seen

as a flare-up in a long dispute over a mineral-rich border area. A ceasefire signed five days ago has been supervised by an observer force of soldiers from eight West African countries.

Mr Guissou, who said his Government believed the peace accord would hold but did not rule out further hostilities, later held talks with the French Minister of External Relations, M Roland Dumas.

The Non-Aggression and Defence Aid Agreement, and Abidjan-based pact of French-speaking West African states, said that no incident had been reported since the ceasefire came into force on Monday.

The observer force consists of two officers each from the seven states: Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Senegal, Niger and Togo, and two from Benin.

3 Heysel officers replaced

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Three of the senior Belgian Gendarmic officers in charge of security during the Heysel football stadium riots last year have been removed from active duty and given administrative posts.

A spokesman for the Gendarmerie said yesterday that the removals did not amount to disciplinary action and were part of a routine rotation of police officers in the course of annual promotions and demotions.

But most Belgian commentators saw the move as reflective of widespread criticism of security at the stadium and failure of the police to prevent or contain the violence.

The Chief of Police, General Bernaert, is not blamed and was largely exonerated by the Government inquiry set up after the Heysel disaster. Instead, lower level officials have been singled out for criticism.

The three officers, removed from duty were named as Colonel Alfons van der Borcht, police commander in the Brabant region, Major Kenzie and Captain Mahieu. The three had 100 gendarmes under their command inside the stadium.

In a further follow-up to the tragedy, which occurred on May 29 but is still causing repercussions, high-level liaison has been strengthened between the Gendarmerie and the Ministries of the Interior and Justice.

Marcos rivals make neutral zone pledge

Manila (Reuters, AP) - Philippines opposition leaders are vowing to make South-East Asia a zone of neutrality, freedom and peace if they win the presidential election on February 7.

Outlining its "minimum programme" the opposition group said yesterday that it would repudiate all agreements and arrangements made by the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos seen to be against the national interests.

Mr Marcos, who has been in power 20 years, is opposed by Benigno Aquino, widow of the murdered opposition leader.

The opposition statement was signed by Mrs Aquino's running mate, Mr Salvador Laurel, head of the United Nationalist Democratic Organization, and Mr Jovito Salonga, president of Laban Ng Bayan, a coalition of parties founded by Benigno Aquino. Mrs Aquino signed as a witness.

They promise to amend the constitution to ensure checks and balances in government, to guarantee press freedom, to eliminate graft and corruption and to free all political prisoners.

Mrs Aquino and Mr Laurel have campaigned for two days in north-west Luzon island, long a Marcos stronghold, as Mr Marcos told an American interviewer he could not allow them to bring Communists into government if they came to power.

Asked to comment on a statement by Mrs Aquino that she would welcome Communists in her government so long as they renounce all forms of violence, she replied that it was more or less an admission that she has supported by Communist rebels.

Mrs Aquino made the statement on Thursday, adding that she would never be a Communist herself.

It pledged to respect United States air and naval bases until the agreement expires in 1991; but gave a warning that after the deadline "we shall keep all our options open."

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Colombo hints at snap poll

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

There is growing speculation in Sri Lanka that President Jayewardene is planning a snap election around April.

Analysts say the granting of a pardon to the opposition leader Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike on Wednesday was the first indication. Her civic rights were taken away in 1980 after she was found guilty of abuse of power during her term of office as Prime Minister from 1970 to 1977.

Press reports said yesterday that the pardon came as India pressed Sri Lanka to consider proposals by the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front to resolve the island's ethnic crisis.

It wants amalgamation of the northern and eastern provinces and for them to be given autonomy. The Government refuses to consider this saying that Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims live in almost equal numbers in the eastern province.

An election will not affect the position of President Jayewardene, who was re-elected in 1982 to serve till 1990.

Chocolate racketeers kill driver

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Polish detectives have broken up a ruthless gang of chocolate fete racketeers who hijacked a lorry load of sweets and then murdered the driver by burying him naked in a forest.

The hijack happened some months before Christmas when sweets fete soaring prices on the black market. Most chocolate is strictly rationed and queues in front of big Warsaw sweet shops can number several hundred.

The driver was taking about five tonnes from a Warsaw factory to Tarnobrzeg in the south-eastern corner of Poland and was accompanied by a friend.

When police tracked down the chocolate, which could fetch 20 million zloties (about £100,000) in the illegal bazaars, the trail led to the driver's friend named as Mr G, and four accomplices. Until Christmas Mr G maintained that he was in cahoots with the driver, they had since lost touch with each other.

After a last round of interrogation, Mr G cracked. He led police to where the driver had been buried under 30in of earth.

But he has now succeeded in convincing most people that his motives are sincere and worthy of support. He has scored a particular hit with the young, who recently voted him their personality of the year.

The *Restaurants du Coeur*, which are mostly not restaurants at all but distribution centres where people can take away a prepared meal in a bag, are due to come to an end on March 21.

But Coluche hopes by that time to have engendered a new spirit of generosity in the heart of ordinary French people, which will continue to be expressed through the more traditional, existing charities.

French hearts warmed by controversial comic

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Unlike the British, the French do not have a tradition of active individual support for charities. But the *Restaurants du Coeur*, launched at Christmas by France's best-known comedian, Coluche, to provide free meals for the poor and hungry, seem to have caught the public imagination.

A seven-hour fund-raising programme on radio last month brought in an immediate £50,000 from private individuals, with a further undisclosed amount from companies and public bodies, and the money is still coming in. Some 50,000 meals a day are already being served, but the aim is to raise that to 200,000 a day, for which

a total of £2 million needs to be found.

Entertainers such as Yves Montand and Catherine Deneuve, have flocked to lend their support, with singer Michel Sardou leading the way with a cheque for 100,000 francs (£9,000). In the run-up to the French general election in March politicians on the right and the left have also hastened to give their backing to such a popular cause.

Gifts in kind have been pouring in. 6,000 bottles of Beaujolais from wine-growers in Burgundy, a train-load of eggs from a Breton farmers' union, 100 tons of potatoes from a supermarket chain, 25,000 meals from a fast-food store, 20,000 packets of biscuits - from a 22 biscuit

manufacturer, and the use of a computer to help co-ordinate the operation from a computer company.

For Coluche's humour, which shows a marked penchant for the scatological and the blasphemous, is not to everyone's taste. Sentencing him recently for shouting obscenities at a policeman, the presiding judge described Coluche as a hoodlum. But it is probably his controversial character, as much as his ready access to the media, which has attracted attention to the *Restaurants du Coeur* and made the venture such a success.

The idea first came to Coluche last autumn when, after helping organise a charity concert in aid of the Ethiopian

famine victims, he received dozens of letters asking why he was not doing anything for the hungry in France.

According to Government figures cited by Coluche, there are some 500,000 people in France who do not have enough to eat; opposition leaders put the figure at nearer two million. France has no social security safety net to ensure that everyone has at least the wherewithal to survive, and last winter there was a public outcry about the plight of what became known erroneously as *les nouveaux pauvres*, the new poor.

When Coluche first announced his scheme three months ago many people had difficulty in believing that the blasphemer had really turned

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ENTERTAINMENTS

WIGMORE HALL

Table listing Wigmore Hall events from Saturday to Friday, including performances by Andras Schiff, Yuko Shokawa, and Jean-Louis Haguenuer.

WIGMORE HALL SAT 4, WED 8, SAT 11, WED 15 JANUARY at 7.30 pm. ANDRAS SCHIFF YUKO SHOKAWA MOZART PIANO The Complete Sonatas for Piano and Violin

WIGMORE HALL MONDAY 6 JANUARY at 7.30 pm. JEAN-LOUIS HAGUENUER SCHUBERT: Three Klavierstücke D.946 DEBussy: From Images, Book 1 CHOPIN: Ballade Op. 10 No. 3

WIGMORE HALL MONDAY 13 JANUARY at 7.30 pm. RICHARD TAUBER PRIZE RECITAL ANNA STEIGER soprano PAMELA LIDIARD piano

WIGMORE HALL SATURDAY 19 JANUARY at 7.30 pm. NASH ENSEMBLE LINDA ESTHER GRAY soprano SARAH LEONARD soprano

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THE ARTS

Television: Mark Lawson finds that Last of the Summer Wine is showing signs of long-haul palsy. Richard Morrison previews Rossini at Versailles and Peter Ackroyd wraps up last night's Right to Reply.

Vintage wine goes off

As the credits rolled on this week's feature-length version of Roy Clarke's 12-year-old Yorkshire sit-com, an announcer reminded the audience that "three of the original stories are available on a BBC video-cassette": a painful confirmation of the gulf between what is and what was.



New team: Compo, Seymour (centre) and Clegg

He's not in. I always know when he's not in. It's like sunshine after rain, said Nora Barry of her husband Wally this week - but the writing style now is slightly slacker and slightly more emphatic.

A feast for Rossini fans

Individually they may be short of cash to make lavish arts programmes, but collectively the national broadcasting organizations of Europe can still wield a hefty purse. They would have needed it for Rossini at Versailles (BBC-2, 8.10 to-night). This 100-minute production may be little more than a pretty televised concert.

The viewers' soapbox corner

Right to Reply Annual (Channel 4) emphasized once again why visual "consumer service" remains one of the most interesting programmes on television.

Gallery Handel in words and pictures

A liking for Handel's music would seem to be a prerequisite for enjoyment of the National Portrait Gallery's current exhibition Hallelujah! Handel - Celebration of his Life and Times 1685-1759.



After Goupy 'The Charming Brute,' an anonymous engraving was heard (in the wrong place) for the first time then, and Solomon's chaplain has not missed a British coronation since.

Kreiser String Orchestra/Thomas Wigmore Hall

Despite its rather unencouraging name, the Kreiser String Orchestra, which is the resident ensemble at South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, is an auspiciously capable young group.

Radio Polished passions of youth

If I had to nominate one production not as first-footing 1986 in the British style, I think it would have to be Peter Everett's series You'll Never Be 16 Again.

Concert

Jennifer Smith. Hers may be a smallish voice, but here it was beautifully balanced with the strings.

Advertisement for Sensational Designer Furs at Factory Prices, featuring a list of fur items and prices, and contact information for Cyrl Kaye.



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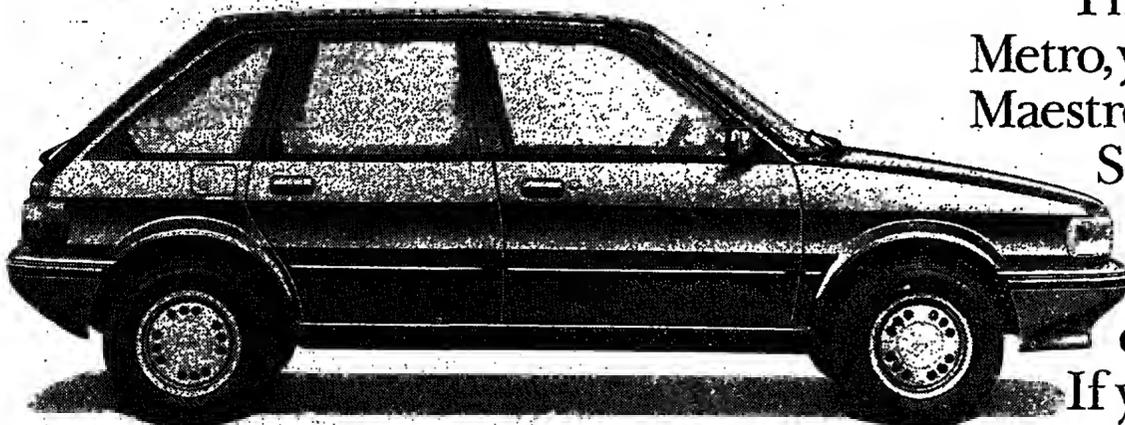


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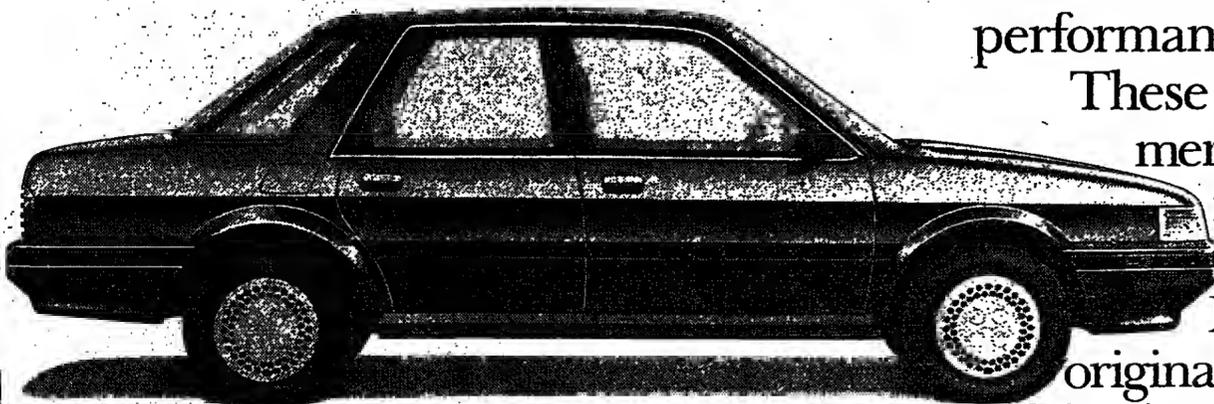
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BALLOTS FOLLOW BULLETS

Politicians and statesmen are fond of New Year messages. Whatever their tendencies towards seasonal piety, they are confined to words alone. Irish terrorists saw in 1984 by murdering a pair of policemen. It was a New Year message to remind us of some underlying realities in Northern Ireland, which have been partially obscured by recent political excitements.

It was delivered alongside two statistics which emerged this week. The Royal Ulster Constabulary has just suffered its worst year of casualties since 1976. With the despatch of 550 additional troops, the Army's strength in the province is at its highest level for more than 10 years. All in all, a grim aftermath to the cheerful tableau of British and Irish ministers assembled to sign the Hillsborough agreement in November.

Elected government in Northern Ireland is under systematic assault by armed military conspiracy. Agreements, such as the one signed at Hillsborough, which redefine relations between democratic states may, eventually, affect the battle against terrorism by altering the context in which it is fought. But agreements can do very little for the everyday business of preventing the murder of soldiers and policemen. The ministers of the British and Irish governments who are set to defend their agreement in the run-up to parliamentary elections later this month would do well to frame their defence in that knowledge, lest anyone be deceived into thinking that the IRA has been somehow forgotten.

The IRA, explicitly committed to a long campaign to wear down the British electorate's commitment to Northern Ireland, need only enough killing to ensure that no-one does forget them. That basic purpose is common to every atrocity, although their choice of targets may vary over time. Lately, they have been aiming most frequently at the RUC, perhaps in the hope of lowering morale to the point where policemen might exceed their powers, or could in some way be cast in the role of a "sectarian" (that is to say, pro-Unionist and anti-Nationalist) force. They have not found it easy to provoke this, and their frustration may be seen in their threats against a softer target, the contractors faced with a heavy rebuilding programme in several police stations.

By stepping up murder, the IRA are also setting up a test for the Hillsborough agreement. More crime means more investigation. There is always the possibility that nationalistic politicians will claim that police action is increasing the "alienation" of the Catholic community - and they are likely to add recruit more voters for Provisional Sinn Féin. But the Hillsborough agreement can only work if Dublin's ministers at the inter-governmental conference can combine their role as representatives of the north's minority Catholic population with support for properly conducted security operations. They are entitled, and encouraged, by the agreement to urge northern

Catholics to take part in monitoring the quality of police work and the past has shown that this is necessary.

But everyday policing cannot become a matter for continuous political control and interference. Nor will the Hillsborough agreement amount to very much if disagreements between politicians and diplomats about security are little more than coded exchanges about partition and history, with the purposes and details of security operations absorbed in a larger quarrel. If the agreement has any success in building support inside the minority community for legitimate authority, it can only do so if nationalist politicians can lay aside the sectarian, symbolic view of policing, and treat the issues which arise on their merits. It goes without saying that this structure applies in exactly the same measure to the police, whose impartiality may well meet stiffer tests if and when opposition to the agreement turns to civil disobedience.

Parliamentaries of the north clearly intend to show that they continue to wield a power of veto over political progress; and indeed political activity of any kind. There are now hunger-strikers in the Maze for the first time in five years, who are capable of mounting a drama which will come to overshadow all else. A Government's only defence against this sort of attack is a steady determination, forged by the knowledge that it will have to be maintained at high cost for a long time.

BANGLADESH BOWLS A WIDE

The Foreign Office's expression of "regret" over the Bangladesh government's last-minute refusal to allow four English cricketers into its country must reflect Whitehall's instinctive preference for damage limitation. It is therefore up to others, less professionally constrained, to ensure that Dakha is left in no doubt over the true nature of British reaction.

The Bangladesh government's excuse is that its own cricket control board did not produce confirmation until the eleventh hour of the four players' links with South Africa. But this is not even an adequate explanation for what can only be seen as a grave discourtesy to this country.

It is true that each government has the right to decide who should or should not be admitted past its shores. But the England "B" cricket party were travelling as the quasi-official representatives of a friendly nation. The very least that might have been expected of their hosts was that any such difficulties would have been sorted out in good time, and that it should have absorbed itself the consequences of its own failure to do so.

Whenever they ought to have been lodged, were the objections unreasonable? They were made after all on the basis of the Commonwealth's 1977 Glen-

eagles Agreement, which committed member states to take every practical step to "discourage" its nationals from contact or competition with sporting organizations, teams or sportsmen from South Africa. The methods by which this commitment should be discharged were left to the governments themselves.

The method adopted by successive British governments since has been one of gentle persuasion on the administrative body of the sport concerned. It has then been up to that particular organization to take what action it considers appropriate. That may not sound like the strong stance favoured by some other Commonwealth countries. But few, if any sporting bodies can be in much doubt over Whitehall's displeasure.

No MCC touring team has been to South Africa (and no South African team has been here) since the middle 1960s. The 1968-9 tour of the Cape was actually cancelled by England. The so-called "rebel" England cricketers who went to South Africa in the early 1980s were banned for three years from the national side, and only re-joined it last summer. This last action might not have been as punitive as that taken by the West Indies, which banned its own "rebels" for life. But it was hardly a case

of turning a blind eye, and was widely criticized at the time for being too harsh.

The players to whom Bangladesh has now objected have been penalized for coaching in South Africa as individuals. They were picked for England under a ruling by the International Cricket Conference of 1981 that each country should be free to pick its own best side. This particular quartet must have been (or at least should have been) considered by the selectors to be vulnerable. But the choice in the end deserved to be respected by the Bangladesh authorities.

Perhaps the Dakha government is smarting over the refusal of Britain to operate full-blooded economic sanctions against Pretoria. If so then it has been ill-advised to take umbrage in this way. With its own previous record on democratic rights it can hardly expect its decision to be treated in this country with respect.

We must now hope that Zimbabwe does not follow this example and, still more so, that the fever does not extend to the forthcoming tour by the England First XI in the Caribbean. There is a point beyond which sanctions can only be counterproductive. They then risk bringing apartheid into sport not taking it away.

NIGERIAN UNREALITY

It has been evident for some time that in negotiations between bankers, international organizations and insolvent countries, the initiative can readily pass to debtor countries that are in a position to seize it. Banks are more reluctant than ever to call a default, because of the domino effect on their own balance sheets. And multinational companies are anxious to retain and develop important if temporarily depressed markets.

Pressures at home, however, provide the greatest stimulus for all but the most stable debtor governments to call the bluff of the International Monetary Fund and question the assumption that an economic restructuring agreement with the IMF is a vital pre-requisite for rescheduling bank debts.

The new regime in Nigeria has revealed a subtle strategy to do just that. Following the breakdown of talks with the IMF over Nigeria's reluctance to devalue a currency that trades at a fifth of its nominal exchange rate in the black market, it has announced measures at home and conditions for rescheduling that offer both the banks and the IMF enough of what they want to make them think twice. Creditors abroad are privately re-

assured about Nigeria's good faith and good intentions.

In particular, the Budget included drastic cuts in the subsidies that Nigeria, a leading oil producer, has given to restrain domestic prices of motor fuel. There are also moves to restructure the economy to encourage currently negligible non-oil exports of products such as food.

On the other side, Major-General Bahangida's government has followed Peru's example and imposed unilaterally a limit on the proportion of the country's foreign exchange earnings that will be used to service up to 20 billion dollars of foreign debt. It proposes to open rescheduling talks on that basis, although the finance minister later suggested that the 30 per cent limit was a negotiating position. The bankers may have some sympathy with this stance, in that the limit will enable Nigeria to service a good part of its longer-term debt, however anxious traders and insurers may be about their already delayed trade debts. Any deterioration in oil trading would in any case have limited Nigeria's ability to pay.

The future of Nigeria's currency, the naira, is, however, crucial both to its developing

financial position and to the restructuring of its economy. The prospect of drastic devaluation was unpopular at home. No wonder. For devaluation represents a drop in living standards unless that is delayed by inflation. Yet the changes in the oil market have cut the value of Nigeria's output whether the people like it or not.

Attempts to disguise this are likely to undermine not only the government's efforts to restructure the economy but also to crack down on the endemic corruption that clogs its wheels. The government has in mind some kind of compromise involving a two-tier currency market that will partly legitimize the black market and perhaps pave the way to modest devaluation. Yet this sets up more of the administrative controls that breed corruption. A new kind of import license is to be available, but only to some and still rigidly controlled. And to counteract the currency misalignment, a 30 per cent import levy is to be imposed to finance export incentives, both openings for further malpractice. While it builds further such structures to disguise market realities, the Nigerian government will have little hope of cleaning up the country's business practices.

Health authority cuts
From the Director of The Oxford Street Association
Sir, Dr Southam's letter (December 30) on the problems facing University College Hospital has implications for Oxford Street.

The accident and emergency (casualty) department at the Middlesex Hospital - our local hospital - has been closed from January 1. Accidents in Oxford Street, accord-

ing to the Bloomsbury Health Authority's informants, should "attend" (sic) the accident and emergency department at University College Hospital which, according to Dr Southam, is having the greatest difficulty in meeting its existing commitments.

Oxford Street is one of the busiest traffic streets in London. At peak it is served by over 260 buses and 600 taxis an hour. It is also the busiest

shopping street in Europe. The inevitable, if unfortunate, consequence is some two hundred traffic accidents annually involving personal injury for which the Bloomsbury Health Authority seems ill prepared.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY SHEPHERD, Director,
The Oxford Street Association,
Eastgate House,
16-19 Eastcastle Street, W1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Takeovers not in public interest

From Lord Hacking
Sir, It would have been unthinkable a few years ago for a company with the assets of the value of another company to find sufficient finance to launch a takeover bid. However this is exactly what we are witnessing in the Argyll bid for Distillers. Nor is this the first such major bid to reach the shores. There is also Elders: DXL which is attempting its own David and Goliath act against Allied Lyons.

While this form of hostile takeover bid, certainly of the proportions of the Elders and Argyll bids, may be new to us, they have been in the United States for a little time. For example, the GAF Corporation, reportedly one tenth of the size of its target company, is currently locked in battle with Union Carbide on a bid valued at US \$4.8 billion with the target of financing valued at US \$3.75 billion. Some of these bids have succeeded and some not, but at least one US major corporation, during the last four months, has been pulled apart in such a takeover without regard to the industry in which it operated or the public interest at large.

No expertise in takeovers is required to appreciate that the offeror in these, so-called "leveraged" bids has to obtain huge loans for financing and sustaining the bid. Argyll has already had to seek net borrowings of £600 million and if it had to make a higher bid it would have to increase its net borrowings further still. Thus to make and sustain such bids the offeror has to rely not upon the assets in his balance sheet but upon the larger assets in the target company's balance sheet.

Labour learning from mistakes

From Mr Jeff Rooker, MP for Perry Barr (Labour)
Sir, Neil Kinnock is quite realistic in placing rationalization on the back burner. Critics had better make up their minds what they want, "more investment and new jobs" or "more investment for the same jobs". I know what my constituents will vote for.

Simply restoring the status quo will be unacceptable to workers, consumers and customers. We would be offering more unaccountable, unrepresentative State monopolies, support for which is passive or, at most, based on a vested interest. Genuine accountability to Parliament has been non-existent. The former Birmingham Municipal Bank was more accountable to the citizens of Birmingham than any nationalised industry I can name.

If the general public had actually felt they owned and controlled the public-sector industries sold off it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for a sell-off policy to have been put forward, let alone executed. The running of such industries has not even been in line with the Labour Party constitution, which calls for "common ownership" and the "best obtainable system of popular administration". Whatever else they have been, the administrations have not been "popular".

Time spent now using our brains on the structure and accountability of the existing public sector will pay dividends, not the least being the winning of wide public support for the public sector. The new investment required to put our people back to work will be public-sector led. It will not win support if we show that we have learnt from our mistakes of the past.

Yours,
JEFF ROOKER,
House of Commons,
December 31.

Labour learning from mistakes

From Mr Richard Langridge
Sir, At a time when our thoughts are turning naturally to the plight of the starving and the poor in this world, one of the crowning achievements of 1985 must be the work of relief organisations in assisting the famine in Africa.

Why then, when so many sections of British society have given to famine relief, have the financial institutions of the City of London been so quiet on this front? We have had Band Aid, Live Aid, Fashion Aid, Actor Aid, at Christmas London's shops contributed with Light Aid and last night on television saw the appearance of Opera Aid. Where, then, is City Aid?

The City's financial institutions are one of the country's greatest sources of revenue; every year upwards of £129 billion of business passes through City hands, making Live Aid's £50 million paltry by comparison. Why, then, are the bankers, the brokers, the investors of the City so mean?

Surely, when 1985 has been a year of tarnished reputations in the City, an event like City Aid could restore much-needed public confidence - as well as helping to prevent a continuing famine in Africa.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LANGRIDGE,
2 Chalfont Court,
236 Baker Street, NW1,
December 23.

No honour for Geldof

From Mr Derek Bartlett
Sir, It is reported in today's issue of The Times (January 2) that the omission of Mr Bob Geldof from the New Year's Honours list is attributed to the fact that there is no precedent for giving an award to a non-British or Commonwealth citizen for activities which have not benefited this country or the Commonwealth.

I suggest that in the quite exceptional case of Mr Geldof this is not a justification. Indeed, he has performed a great service to this country in reawakening in its people a sense of humanity to a level that the present day British politician or cleric could ever have done.

Moreover, the omission of his name is a failure to acknowledge the selfless service to mankind given by his organisation's team of British citizens.

That this nation wished to honour Mr Geldof is clear from the widespread expressions of shock and disappointment which have followed the omission. The failure to recognise this wish demonstrates a low regard for the opinions of elected leaders are from the rest of us.

A government allegedly concerned with public image would have derived much greater benefit from a modest award to Mr Geldof than from a knighthood conferred to reward advice on voice pitch and hair style.

I suspect that in leaving Mr Geldof out of her list, Mrs Thatcher may well have found the first banana skin of 1986.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK BARTLETT,
The Ridgeway,
Caversham,
Berkshire,
January 2.

Sleepers awake

From the Reverend David A. Huntley
Sir, Professor Ian Fells asks (December 28) whether a longitudinal bunk would not be more sleep-inducing than the present BR sleeper design, in which they are always transverse to the rails.

I have asked myself the same question, especially after riding in trains a lot less smooth than BR's. Lateral movement when one is in a transverse bunk does appear to be less restful.

However, in southeast Asia one may still find sleeping cars of all types: those similar to BR's, as well as the older open bunk layout, and with transverse and longitudinal beds in either style.

After a score of rides in all types, both air-conditioned and not, I have come to the conclusion that sleep in sleeping cars is not a function of travel direction, but of tiredness and that lack of anything on my mind to keep me awake!

Yours faithfully,
DAVID A. HUNTLEY,
c/o 55 Essenden Road,
South Croydon, Surrey.

Lessons from Swiss

From Dr Michael P. O'Reilly
Sir, Following your recent article, "The student pauper" (December 18) I felt it only right to inform you of what has happened at a grassroots level.

Student entitlement to housing benefit has been approximately two years ago. At that time the average rent per person in Exeter was between £10 and £15 per week. With the threat of the Fowler review of social security I have been looking at student rents in and around Exeter, to find the average rent is now £20-£25 per week, a rise of 66 per cent in the top figure in under two years.

It is quite clear that the people benefiting from housing benefit are the landlords, not the students. But before Mr Fowler jumps on my letter as a good reason to cut housing benefit for students, may I pose him a question: How many landlords will lower those rents when housing benefit disappears?

A victory for the private sector, yet again, I think.

Yours faithfully,
MARK A. F. HUBBARD,
(Welfare Officer),
Exeter University Guild of Students,
Devonport Road,
Exeter,
Devon,
December 18.

The student pauper

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MARK A. F. HUBBARD,
(Welfare Officer),
Exeter University Guild of Students,
Devonport Road,
Exeter,
Devon,
December 18.

The forgotten disease

From the General Secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees
Sir, I must take issue with some of the points you make in your leader of December 19 concerning the move towards community care. In the first place, it is wrong to dismiss the charge that the Government sees community care as a money-saving exercise.

Services for the mentally ill have long been under-funded in this country and a simple admission by the Government that "community care is not a cheap option" will not suffice to quell the fears of those who suspect that saving money is precisely the Government's intention.

Until the policy of an overall reduction in public expenditure ceases, the NHS will remain unable to provide the capital and revenue expenditure needed to develop significant additional funds are made available by the Government the public will continue to perceive community care as a money-saving exercise, no matter how plausible denials may sound.

Secondly, I would disagree with your recommendations on joint funding. While the ability of local authorities to provide adequate services for the mentally ill is undoubtedly distorted at present by cuts and rate-capping, their previous record of achievements in community care does not bode well for the future.

Even with better central funding, joint finance is unfeasible. Services for the mentally ill are not regarded as a priority by most local authorities, and as high capital and revenue spending services they can become an electoral liability, if rate increases are the result.

Making the most of it

From Commander F. N. Ponsobny, RN
Sir, The anonymous writer of your "Food prices" feature this morning (December 27) alleges "Shepherd's pie... as its name indicates, used to be made from left-over mutton but is now invariably made from minced beef".

Not so in spite of the near-impossibility of obtaining mutton in this country a perfectly respectable shepherd's pie continues to be made from left-over lamb. The minced beef version should be called cottage pie.

I have the honour, etc,
FRANCIS PONSOBONY,
Lynne Farm Cottage,
Sleep, Petersfield, Hampshire,
December 27.

Classical top ten

From Mr David Chesterman
Sir, Analysis of all symphonies played in London's Barbican, Royal Albert, Royal Festival and Queen Elizabeth Halls, during 1985 shows that Beethoven, who in 1984 lost to Mozart by half a symphony, has taken his revenge. He leads with 62½, the half being two performances of No 7's last movement given at the Barbican by Noel Tredinnick.

Mozart is only one movement behind, with 62. Dvorak falls to 32.16 of these the "New World". Tchaikovsky scores 29 and, thanks to the LSO Festival, Mahler has gone up from 13½ to 24½ (including three "Blumines" at ½ each and three No 10 Adagios at ½ each).

Haydn is sixth with 21, and equal seventh are Brahms, Schubert and Shostakovich, with 17 apiece. Mendelssohn, as in 1984, is tenth with 13. Sibelius, listed in 1984 with 15, drops to eleventh place, even though I have counted his "Kullervo".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CHESTERMAN,
15 Shaftesbury,
Charleywood,
Hertfordshire,
December 28.

Wind in the wires

From Mr Mark Ash
Sir, Down our lane in this country area lived a fellow who acquired a London street lamp (pre-war), stuck a bulb in it and fixed it on at night to illuminate his front garden and, presumably, evoke a boyhood memory or two.

Why doesn't Mr Alker (December 27) negotiate with British Telecom for one of their departing telegraph poles, run wires from it to his nearest tree and ever thereafter, when the wind blows, enjoy his own private moon?

Yours faithfully,
MARK ASH,
Buddle Hill,
North Cerley,
Near Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

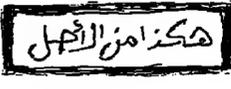
ON THIS DAY
JANUARY 4 1896
The premiere of this, the third comedy by Oscar Wilde (1864-1900) was attended by the Prince of Wales, who learning afterwards that some of the dialogue may be out of date, "Do not take out a word."

HAYMARKET THEATRE.
The departure of Mr. Tree and his company for America leaves the Haymarket Theatre for a brief season in the hands of Messrs. Lewis Waller and H. H. Morrell and these gentlemen have tried to take advantage of the opportunity to produce a new play by Mr. Oscar Wilde. This, *An Ideal Husband*, was brought out last night with a similar degree of success to that which has attended the production of his previous productions. It is a similar degree of success due to similar causes. For *An Ideal Husband* is marked by the same characteristics as *Lady Windermere's Fan* and *A Woman of No Importance*. There is a group of well-dressed women and men on the stage, talking a strained, inverted, but rather amusing idiom, while the action, the dramatic motive, of the play springs from a conventional device of the time-honoured order of melodrama. Mr. Wilde's ingenuity is verbal; there is none of this quality expended upon his plot and very little upon his characters, most of whom have caught their author's trick of phrasing. The central figure of the story, the "ideal husband" himself, is a young and rising politician, one Sir Robert Chiltern, who has become Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, with prospects of entering the Cabinet; and the action begins with the revelation that he is a promising public man, adored by his wife and extolled by the Press as all that is noble and upright in private and public life, falls a victim of blackmail at the hands of an over-dressed adventurer of cosmopolitan experience named Mrs. Cheever.

With the exception of an odd tendency to drop the subject in hand and score verbal successes at each other's expense, the story pursues a normal course. Sir Robert does not come out as a friend, Lord Goring who rather bluntly recalls him to a sense of his duty as a politician. "If you make a clean breast of it," observes this mentor, "you will never be able to talk morality again, and if a man cannot talk morality again, what a large business it is!" Mrs. Cheever, who is a senseless as a politician; he can only fall back upon botany or the Church....

To assume that the working out of this somewhat primitive story, which Mr. Wilde must have found rather than imagined, constitutes the interest of *An Ideal Husband* would be doing the play an injustice. The real interest lies in admiring the commonplace by force of epigram, and this aim he consistently pursues throughout his four acts. "Women discover everything except the obvious"; "Too much rouge and not enough clothes"; "It is always worth while to ask a question, rarely worth while answering one"; "The pessimists are intolerable people because of the way they wear their hair"; "The modern woman understands everything except her husband"; "Morality is the attitude we adopt towards people we dislike"; "Vulgarity is the behaviour of other people" - such are a few of Mr. Wilde's epigrams, as they are distributed, at random.

Despite an imposing array of names in the cast, the action is carried on mainly, not to say exclusively, by Mr. Lewis Waller as Sir Robert, Miss Julia Neilson as his wife, Mr. Charles Hawtrey as Lord Goring, and Miss Florence West as Mrs. Cheever, such capable assistants as Miss Fanny Brough, Miss Vane Featherston, Miss Maude Millet, and Mr. Alfred Bishop fulfilling in the "society" scenes of the piece a purely decorative function. The small part of a manservant is assigned to Mr. Brookfield, who illumines it with unassisted character. Admirably serving the author and well served by him in return, Mr. Lewis Waller rivets attention upon the part of Sir Robert, which is played in his manliest and most robust style. It is his friend Lord Goring who discharges the best of the verbal fireworks of the piece, and the duty is well performed by Mr. Elwetry.



COURT AND SOCIAL

Age of the uncommitted theologian

Princess Anne will attend a dinner and fashion show at Woburn Abbey on February 26 organized by the Horse Trials Support Group.

RMS Royal Arthur, Corsham, Wiltshire, on January 28, will visit P.J. Parmler and Sons, agricultural engineers in Tisbury.

Beards were pulled over it, men were burnt for it, but now it seems that it is only good for sensational headlines. Is that the role for theology?

experienced when he first gave birth" to the character. It is that sense of involvement which is so noticeably lacking in much of modern theology, and is paralleled in literature and art.

allow itself to come into contact with Jesus. It simply cannot watch from the sidelines, like Gammelin, to see which way the wind blows. If it is true of an actor that he should enter into the part, surely the theologian must enter into and remain in contact with the one about whom he is making theology?

teaching of Jesus in communion with the members of his body, the Church, and pondering the wonder of that life which was made manifest and dwelt among us full of grace and truth.

Princess Anne, as president of the Royal Bath and West and Southern Counties Society, will attend a meeting of the society's council at the Shepton Mallet showground on February 27, and later will open the new premises of Pajomco in Lockstock Road, Bath.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron of the National Society for Cancer Relief, will visit Michael Sobell House and open the Magnetic Resonance Scanner Centre at the Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, on March 20.

It is not the costume or the make-up which matters at all, but the actor/theologian himself. In fact, any actor would be profoundly disturbed if he felt that a whole succession of characters was having no impact, or even a negative impact on the audience.

At the root of this theological bravura is there not a subconscious unwillingness to come into contact with the fullness of Christ? We hear so much about the Christ event and the historical Jesus, but is that almost an excuse to keep one from the impact of the Word of God.

It can be argued that in the greatest weight of the fathers' teaching we find that complement to the Scriptures which gives us a sense of the full majesty of Revelation. That is not because the Fathers had some arcane set of teachings denied to the rest of the faithful; they entered into the very mystery of the Incarnation through living the

There was no press conference, and little sensationalism to launch the Letters of Ignatius but his theology was the very stuff of his life and death; like the apostles, he could not but speak of what he had seen and heard. As such, it had an incalculable impact on his audience, who gathered up his words as they gathered up his ashes.

Latest wills

Mrs Ethel Grace Gladwell, of Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex, formerly of Staines, left £613,337 net. She left £9,350 in personal bequests and the residue equally between the NSPCC, RSPCA, Salvation Army, National Trust, Royal British Legion and the Methodist Homes for the Aged.

Birthdays

TODAY: Miss Grace Bumbry, 49; Mrs. Stella Gibbons, 84; Rosalie Crutchley, 64; Mr. Iain Cuthbertson, 56; Sir Thomas Ferens, 83; Professor K. J. Hancock, 51; Sir Havock Hudson, 67; Lieutenant-Commander Sir Ian Clark, Hutchinson, 83; Sir Leslie Joseph, 78; Professor B. Josephson, 46; the Hon Diana Makgill, 56; Mr T. J. Rex, 52; Sir Thomas Robson, 90; the Hon Sir Rudolf Lyons, QC, 74; Eric E. van Lennep, 93; Dr. D. D. Whittey, 71; Major-General Sir Michael Wilkins, 53.

Doctor and saint and heard

Doctor and saint and heard about it and about but evermore came out by the same door as in I went. It is not the costume or the make-up which matters at all, but the actor/theologian himself.

Latest appointments

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, London: Rev. Canon J. H. G. ... ST BRIDGES, Fleet Street, E.C. 4: Rev. Canon J. H. G. ... ST MARTIN IN THE VIELDS, London: Rev. Canon J. H. G. ...

Services tomorrow: Second Sunday after Christmas

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, London: Rev. Canon J. H. G. ... ST BRIDGES, Fleet Street, E.C. 4: Rev. Canon J. H. G. ... ST MARTIN IN THE VIELDS, London: Rev. Canon J. H. G. ...

James Tolhurst

Parish Priest, St Joseph's, St Mary Cray. He was educated at Winchester High School and Newnham College, Cambridge, where she took firsts in both parts of the Classical Tripos. She taught for a short time at Chesterton Ladies' College and was then appointed to a classical tutorship at St Hugh's College, Oxford, which she held from 1921 to 1924.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain M. L. B. Varney and Miss K. J. Bean. The engagement is announced between Mark Varney, Scots Guards, elder son of Mr Owen and Lady Mary Varney of Hill House, Dedham, Essex, and Katie, younger daughter of Mr & Mrs Eric Bean, of Leckhamstead Thicket, Newbury, Berkshire.

Marriages

Mr W. M. Heath and Miss M. R. H. Glyde. The marriage took place yesterday in the Basilica of St Peter, Vatican City, Rome, of Mr William Heath, younger son of Sir Mark and Lady Heath, of A101 Tregunter, 14 Tregunter Path, Hong Kong, and Miss Mary-Rose Helen (Coky) Glyde, of Oxford, Mgr L. Talabac officiated.

University news

London Royal Veterinary College. £25,000 from the Agricultural and Food Research Council for the purchase of a new £250,000 computer for the Department of Veterinary Pathology.

Science report

Nile perch cause ecological disaster. An experimental project that was tragically derailed has brought an ecological disaster to the shores of Lake Victoria in East Africa, according to fisheries experts.

Law Report January 4 1986

Nursing care payment from trust not income. The trustees were assessed in income tax at the additional rate in respect of those payments. The commissioner held that the sums so appointed were received as capital and not as income and he reduced the assessments to tax.

Police powers of entry covered all purposes

Police officers who entered a licensed night club at night time for the sole purpose of detecting offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 were there lawfully. Police officers who entered a licensed night club at night time for the sole purpose of detecting offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 were there lawfully.

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Law Report January 4 1986

The appeal failed. The line to be drawn was between transactions which created a trust for elements to income in the recipient's hands and those which did not. To attach an income label to payments made in satisfaction of recurrent liabilities incurred in the process of maintaining life seemed to confuse the functional purposes of the payments with the right in respect of which they were made.

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR JOCELYN TOYNBEE

Roman art historian

Professor Jocelyn Toynbee, FSA, FBA, who died on December 31 at the age of 88, was a distinguished archaeologist and historian of Roman art.

Laurence Professor Emerita of Classical Archaeology in the University of Cambridge, she had been Professor there from 1951 to 1962, and was an Hon Fellow of Newnham College.

She went from there to a lectureship in the University of Reading and returned to Cambridge in 1927 as Fellow and Director of Studies in Classics at Newnham and Lecturer in Classics in the University, which post she held until her appointment to the Laurence Chair of Archaeology.

LORD DERWENT

Lord Derwent, CBE, who died on January 2 at the age of 84, had been Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords since 1970.

His interest in architecture was inherent, but it was also undoubtedly stimulated by the keenness of his elder brother, the third peer, who was one of the founders in 1937 of the Georgian Group.

SIR JAMES MACKAY

The Right Hon Roy Jenkins, MP, writes. Sir James Mackay, KBE, CB, who died on December 24 at the age of 78, was a powerful and unusual civil servant.

He was born in Morayshire, the son of a railwayman, and made his way through Forbes and Hamilton Academies to Glasgow University and on to Balliol, where he read Honours in Mods and Greats, then went back to Glasgow for six years as a lecturer in Humanity.

MR SHUM WAI-YAU

Mr Shum Wai-yau, CBE, one of Hong Kong's oldest and most respected newspapermen, died on December 19, 1985 at the age of 89.

He was responsible for introducing many innovations into the printing industry of Hong Kong. Sixty years ago he founded Wah Kiu at Po, a paper which continued to command respect and remains a monument to the efforts and energy of Shum. Wah Kiu at Po has been for half a century among the most admired Chinese language papers in Hong Kong and the Far East generally.

Shum was a strong supporter of charitable causes, chaired several welfare agencies, and raised many millions of dollars to help students. In 1956 he was made OBE and in 1979 he was advanced to CBE.

He had for many years played a leading role in the Commonwealth Press Union, and in September last year gave £200,000 to its training fund.

Lady Wallis, widow of Sir Barnes Wallis, CBE, FRS, the distinguished aeronautical engineer, died on January 1. She was a Mary Frances, daughter of A. G. Boxam, and she was married in 1925. Barnes Wallis died in 1979.

Mr Wilfred Barrett Bradshaw, CBE, who died on December 24 at the age of 88, was formerly Director of Accounts and Audit, Ministry of Labour.

Lady Puckley, widow of Sir Walter Puckley, died on December 30. She was Alice Robson, daughter of Frederick Richards, and she was married in 1926. Her husband died in 1983.

She was educated at Winchester High School and Newnham College, Cambridge, where she took firsts in both parts of the Classical Tripos. She taught for a short time at Chesterton Ladies' College and was then appointed to a classical tutorship at St Hugh's College, Oxford, which she held from 1921 to 1924.

Her first work was The Hadrianic School: a Chapter in the History of Greek Art (1934) and she followed it with Roman Medallions (1944); Some Notes on Artists in the Roman World (1951); The Shrine of St Peter and the Vatican Excavation (with John Ward Perkins, 1956); The Roman Reliefs from the Palazzo dei Conservatori in Rome (1957); Art in Roman Britain (1962); Art in Britain

Her wisdom and sure instinct to put first things first were of the utmost value both in Newman and in the learned bodies with which she was associated; she was always a splendid fighter in good causes, with an added punch that came from being absolutely without rancour.

She was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, which awarded her the W. E. Hill Medal for services to the British Archaeology, in 1984, and a Fellow of the British Academy.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar scored widespread gains yesterday as remarks by the governor of Bank of Japan had operators rushing to cover their short positions.

The American currency climbed more than 4 yen in less than half an hour in immediate response to the governor's declaration that he did not want to see the yen rise above its year-end level of 200.60 to the dollar ahead of the Tokyo summit meeting in May.

The dollar, down to about 198.50 yen in the far East, swung up to touch 202.80 in the space of 20 minutes on the statement.

Table with columns for currency, rate, and change. Includes Sterling, Swiss Franc, and other major currencies.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table showing Sterling spot and forward rates for various maturities and currencies.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table listing other sterling rates for currencies like Argentina, Australia, and Hong Kong.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing dollar spot rates for various international currencies.

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS

Table detailing Euro-currency deposit rates for different terms and currencies.

TREASURY BILL TENDER

Table for Treasury bill tender information, including bid and ask prices.

WALL STREET

New York (Agency): The market headed higher in active early trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones average, which fell 8.94 to 1,537.73 on Thursday was up 8.49 to 1,546.22 at one stage. Later in the morning it slipped to 1,545.64, up 7.91.

Table showing Wall Street stock market performance, including Dow Jones and other indices.

Table listing various stock prices and market activity.

Table showing LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES, including interest rate and currency futures.

Table for LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES, detailing specific contract prices.

Table for LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES, showing market trends and prices.

Table for LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES, providing a summary of market data.

Table for LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES, listing various financial instruments.

Big rise in sales of cream liqueurs

By Teresa Poole

Cream-based liqueurs for the after-dinner drinker have been one of the alcoholic successes of 1985.

Better distribution and wider availability has stimulated demand, and it is thought that they are being favoured increasingly by women.

The market for cream-based liqueurs is seasonal and the two months before Christmas saw an aggressive marketing battle among the leading brands.

The clear market leader - and also the world's best selling liqueur - is Baileys Original Irish Cream, a blend of Irish whiskey, chocolate and cream, made by Grand Metropolitan's wine and spirits division, International Distillers and Vintners.

Baileys holds between 60 and 70 per cent of the British market.

According to the Victoria Wine Company, sales at 800 outlets of cream-based liqueurs as a whole were up by 15 per cent over the Christmas period.

At the top end of the market is Creme de Grand Marnier, a cream-based liqueur with orange-flavoured cognac, which sells for about £6.95 a bottle.

At the bottom end of the market is Creme de Banane, a cream-based liqueur with banana-flavoured cognac, which sells for about £3.95 a bottle.

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RTZ coup could threaten Britain's oil prosperity

When does an independent oil company become a major oil company? This is the question Lasmo shareholders must ask themselves at the extraordinary meeting on Monday.

The deal has been widely acknowledged as a coup for RTZ, but there must be lingering doubts about whether this is the best way for the independent oil sector to undergo its much-needed and painful rationalization.

Tumbling oil prices and market sentiment have ensured that this part must be endured but the emergence of RTZ as the puppeteer pulling the rationalization strings may not be to the long run, result in the strong and vibrant independent sector which is essential for the long-term prosperity of the British oil industry.

If the deal goes through, and the proxy voting to date suggests that it will, RTZ will have an interest directly or indirectly in varying degrees in Lasmo, Tricentaur and Enterprise, which has itself already snapped up Saxo Oil. All these companies could, quite justifiably, be described as independents but put them all together under the RTZ banner and the net result is an oil business which is bordering on becoming a major.

Although the deal leaves Lasmo with a sounder financial base there must be a danger that it will in future be regarded as little more than an RTZ offshoot, and it may therefore encounter resistance in its own efforts to develop the business by the "bids and deals" route. Further participation in the sector's rationalization may be more restricted.

The next two years will be critical for the independents. It is essential that they emerge from that period in a position to take up their allotted role as the keepers of the United Kingdom's oil reserves.

Both the Canadian and US oilfields are now 80 per cent dominated by independent companies which have thrived since the majors relinquished their early domination.

Unfortunately for investors, this important long-term objective will not square with their short-term performance measures. The independent sector will therefore have to look after itself, which leaves the bigger companies and the RTZs of this world with a duty to act responsibly which might not be immediately apparent.

Property shares: Last year saw property share brokers crying into their silk handkerchiefs. There were few takers for property shares in a hush market which broke new records almost daily.

The rise in the rest of the equity market made property stocks look even less attractive last year, but will this continue into 1986? The indications are that there will be a bear market this year, a factor which will help property equities.

Certain areas of the direct property market saw distinct improvement last year which will continue into 1986. Notable were the City office market, filled by the coming big bang and the growth of the financial conglomerates hungry for space, and the retail sector.

The latter has been the brightest light on the horizon for some time and will be so this year. Retailing is changing fundamentally. The development of out-of-town retail warehouses or warehouse parks is an underlying trend. Enormous schemes incorporating leisure activities are being planned.

Beazer, which has no experience of international construction, wants Kier as a cash generator and a cyclical offset to its housebuilding activities. A sensible strategic move for Beazer, but there is nothing in it for Kier at the present price. Kier shareholders should sit tight.

Table showing MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD, including trading conditions and overnight rates.

Table showing MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD, detailing market activity and rates.

Table showing MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD, listing various financial instruments.

Table showing MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD, providing a summary of market data.

Table showing MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD, listing various financial instruments.

Table showing COMMODITIES, including oil, sugar, and other goods.

Table showing COMMODITIES, detailing market activity and prices.

Table showing COMMODITIES, listing various commodities.

Table showing COMMODITIES, providing a summary of market data.

Table showing COMMODITIES, listing various commodities.

Table showing APPOINTMENTS, listing various business events.

Table showing APPOINTMENTS, detailing market activity and prices.

Table showing APPOINTMENTS, listing various appointments.

Table showing APPOINTMENTS, providing a summary of market data.

Table showing APPOINTMENTS, listing various appointments.

Table showing RECENT ISSUES, listing new securities.

Table showing RECENT ISSUES, detailing market activity and prices.

Table showing RECENT ISSUES, listing various securities.

Table showing RECENT ISSUES, providing a summary of market data.

Table showing COMPANY NEWS, listing corporate announcements.

Table showing COMPANY NEWS, detailing market activity and prices.

Table showing COMPANY NEWS, listing various companies.

Table showing COMPANY NEWS, providing a summary of market data.

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Table showing COMPANY NEWS, providing a summary of market data.

Take stock to share in the good times

INVESTMENT

As the New Year comes in investors will probably remember 1985 best for the scandals in the City - Lloyd's, Johnson Matthey and the like - and for the recently published Financial Services Bill, the implications of which will take many mouths to digest.

Home owners with mortgages, and borrowers generally, are more likely to associate 1985 with the highest interest rates in real terms for years, and the squeeze that put on their disposable income.

Conversely, 1985 will be remembered with a warm glow by building society and bank savers who received a real return on their investment as well as anyone fully invested in stock markets around the world where so many new highs were achieved.

But what of 1986? Already the pundits are over the top of the continued strength of the bull market in Britain. The fizz frothing over in the past two months of the year has reinforced the pessimists' view that the autumn stock market excitement was only the last flourish before a bear market.

Howard Flight, among others, says: "Anyone anticipating 'the peaking out' as the currency dealers put it, of the US dollar in 1985, should have made a fat capital gain. After a nail-biting first quarter where sterling was shot to pieces, its subsequent recovery looks reasonably secure."

Mr Flight, who runs Guinness Mahon's managed currency funds, reckons that the Group of Five meeting last September will be viewed as a

major watershed for currencies. Governments agreed to intervene on exchange markets to try to iron out some of the wilder fluctuations of the 1980s.

"Since then, everything has gone as the Group of Five could have wished. The dollar is being held downwards, though it is still too high against the major currencies apart from sterling," says Mr Flight.

He feels that the yen and the Deutschmark must appreciate against the dollar further, by between 20 and 30 per cent this year if, among other things, US exports are to become sufficiently competitive.

He thinks that sterling is potentially the most volatile major currency because of declining oil price. Nevertheless, he is optimistic that it should hold around the \$1.40 to \$1.50 level.

He says: "I think 1986 will be

A backing for the yen and mark

the year of the soft landing for the UK and US. They'll sort out their deficit and I think the oil price vulnerability won't have the impact you might think on our economy."

Mr Flight is backing the yen and the Deutschmark this year. He would advise switching into these currencies or going for a unit trust investing in these currency areas.

But he adds: "We remain keen on an investor's funds being in a basket of currencies. So many buy sterling because it is the easiest thing to do."

The view on interest rates is split between those who do not expect much of a decline and

those who think a gentle dropping-off of rates is likely.

Anthony Bolton, investment director of Fidelity International, is one of the optimists, though he reckons: "They'll come down less fast than one would expect as the Government's fiscal policy oozes amounts to the control of interest rates."

Tony Gordon, founder partner of Bristol-based insurance brokers Redcliffe Associates, sums up the view with no frills: "Interest rates have to ease some time this year, if this Government hasn't goofed entirely."

Tim Melville-Ross, chief general manager of the Nationwide Building Society, feels an underlying confidence that rates must drop. "I'd dearly like to see them come down substantially this year, but the evidence is sadly lacking at the moment," he says on a note of caution.

"There is the oil price, and the Government's desire for low wage settlements is so strong that it looks prepared to squeeze corporate liquidity with high rates."

David Ritchie, assistant general manager at Scottish Widows, is taking a cautious line - he does not think interest

rates will fall away this year and, likewise, he feels gilts will not rise much above current levels.

Not much that happened in 1985 surprised Philip Gray, managing director of GT Management UK, except the under-performance of gilts. "Gilts were distinctive in not going to plan," he says. But he bears view on interest rates, is advising clients to think gilts this year. "It very much

always takes longer to set in than one thinks."

His advice is to remain fully invested but to take stock after a few months into the year, as then the ifs and buts about government policy, corporate profits, even the next election, will begin to come to the fore.

Mr Gordon, in line with his bear view on interest rates, is advising clients to think gilts this year. "It very much

More attracted to overseas markets

depends on an individual's portfolio of course, but for short-term gain I recommend gilts. I'd suggest either investing in a gilts unit trust or an insurance fund with a gilts weighting."

Along with many other fund managers, Edinburgh-based Scottish Widows was underinvested in UK equities last year until around mid-summer. Mr Ritchie, who is involved in managing the UK's largest single pooled pension fund, worth about £1,600 million, is restrained again this year.

Japan gets a general thumbs down, though Mr Ritchie says: "We are beginning to look at Japanese technology stocks again after a poor two years."

Mr Bolton takes an original line on 1986: "We're bullish about the UK market for the first part of the year. We don't agree with the pessimists about a bear market yet. These things

about the US. His favourite market for 1986 is Europe, though he would not plump for any single market.

"For the growth-orientated investor I'd put 40 per cent in the UK, 20 per cent in the US, 20 per cent into Europe and the remaining 20 per cent split between Japan and the Far East," he says.

Mr Gray is the biggest all-round bull of our straw poll. In fact, he thinks 1986 looks so good for UK, US and European equities that he's a trifle worried.

He says: "All the signs point to another vintage year. The mood is still pro-business, deflationary, and the tax climate is oof favourable to equities, and I don't just mean in the US and the UK. Have you seen how well the Indian stock market did in 1985 thanks to tax cuts?"

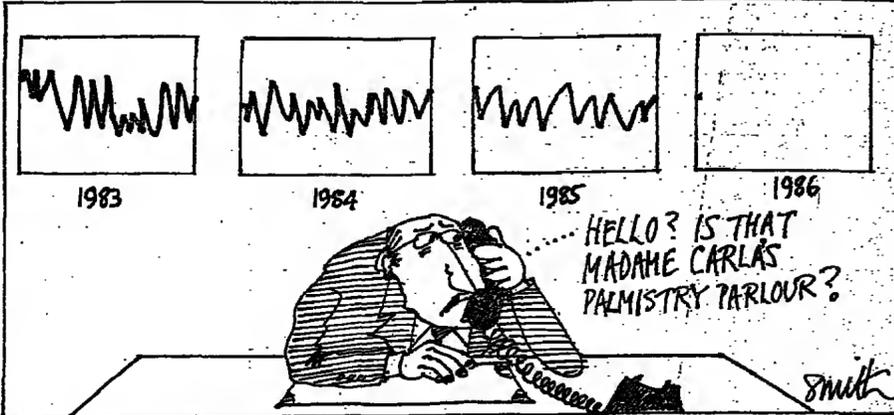
Mr Manduca's aphorism for 1986 is "don't be afraid to take profits."

Mr Gordon counsels: "With the phasing-out of Serps, I think 1986 is the year when retirement planning needs a lot of thought and expert advice. It was never less appropriate just to contact your nearest insurance salesman."

Mr Melville-Ross, wearing his building society hat square on his head, says he looks on 1986 as the preparation for the Building Society Bill becoming law in 1987, which will give building societies much wider scope in investment.

He also predicts that the arrival of the Matrix automated telling machines this year (pot together by several building societies) will make building societies that much more useful for consumers.

Hilaire Gomer



Keep cash ready for the big deals

The first few weeks of 1986 are as good a time as any for reviewing your finances, and the new year brings a number of changes which are important to investors.

With several new privatizations in the pipeline for 1986 - British Gas, British Airways, Royal Ordnance and possibly the Trustee Savings Bank - your first requirement is to keep cash ready.

That means a building society or high-interest cheque account, as many plastic cards as you can service, or filling all these, the ability to draw on a negotiated overdraft.

Argue for the best deal you can get. This might even include approaching a bank manager who has gone to a new branch and with whom you were on better terms than you appear to be with your present one.

After ensuring the availability of cash for "bargains", which could include new issues, analyse your objectives in the light of current tax legislation. There are four important changes which come into effect in 1986.

First comes the full abolition of boot washing for portfolios with a nominal (or face) value of more than £5,000 from February 28. If your gift or fixed interest stocks do not exceed this amount, any gains you make on sale or maturity after that date will still be classed as capital gain and not subject to the accrued (taxable) income rules.

Second, if you have local authority bonds in your portfolio and are a basic rate taxpayer, your interest payments on the bonds rise from April 1986.

From that date, interest will be paid, like building society interest, after composite rate tax has been deducted at 25 per cent. Also as with building societies, any tax paid cannot be reclaimed, so non-taxpayers should no longer invest in local authority bonds, but go for National Savings in its various forms - NSB Investment Account, Income and Deposit Bonds, and gilts through the National Savings Stock Register.

These all pay interest or dividends gross, without deduction of basic rate tax. Alternatively, you can put your money offshore in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. All the high street banks have Channel

Islands or offshore subsidiaries offering high interest or money market accounts.

A third change beginning in 1986 is that all building societies must make returns to the Inland Revenue of the net interest paid or credited to savers where that amount exceeds £2,000 annually (£400 at the high street banks). This limit applies only to 1986-87 and may be altered thereafter.

The idea is for easier computation of the composite tax.

The fourth change applies to gilts and qualifying corporate bonds. From July 2, disposal of all such securities will be entirely free of capital gains tax up to the annual (£5,900) and will no longer have to be held for more than a year to qualify for this exemption.

Qualifying corporate bonds are defined in Section 64 of the 1984 Finance Act, which refers to Section 82 (3) (b) and

Have a fallback in case of emergency

"Includes any loan stock or similar security whether of the United Kingdom or of any other Government or of any public or local authority in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, or of any company whether secured or unsecured."

Examples are Birmingham 11.5 per cent 2012 (local authority stock), BAT 12.5 per cent 2003-08 (corporation loan stock), New Zealand 11.5 per cent 2014 (quoted "bulldog").

They are bought through stockbrokers with the commission charged on corporation stock as debentures (0.9 per cent on the first £5,000, 0.45 per cent on the next £4,500) but payable on settlement day while local authorities stock (charged as short gilts 0.8 per cent on the first £2,500, 0.125 per cent on the next £15,000) is payable as a cash transaction.

With these four changes in mind, the investment strategy for 1986 would appear to be as follows: the introduction of a gilt or fixed interest element into your portfolio to get any tax-free capital gain there may be around; always to have a fallback of cash, not only for the odd emergency but for new issues and other "bargains"; and, as the last refuge for the non-taxpayers, to take up one of the National Savings offerings.

Jennie Hawthorne

EXTRA UNITS UP TO 5th APRIL

The only 3 Unit Trusts most investors should ever need

With over eight hundred unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose? In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust, and M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each: Recovery Fund for capital growth, Dividend Fund for income, and SECOND General for a balance between income and growth.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income and a yield about 50% higher than the FT Actuaries All Share Index.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64	-	-	£10,000	£10,000
1965	£396	£536	10,200	10,000
1970	463	650	10,760	10,000
1975	828	871	16,300	10,000
1980	1,660	1,200	24,280	10,000
1985	2,278	908*	65,160	10,000

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society income figures are 15% above the average of the rates offered in each year (source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend capital figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 29-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT ORDINARY PRICE INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1960	19,520	20,080	11,293	12,483
1965	31,320	26,230	13,492	16,093
1970	46,480	30,540	17,443	21,696
1975	79,840	39,620	33,107	31,651
1980	195,400	61,600	62,494	49,931
1985	546,000	176,240	85,941	78,588

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra-interest account offering 15% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	11,760	8,570	11,020	11,058
1975	26,400	11,121	21,283	16,178
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,521
1985	270,800	49,474	55,248	40,168

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra-interest account offering 15% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

All applications received by 5th April 1986 will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund.

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ

Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of my choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and SECOND and Income units will be issued for Dividend) at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

RECOVERY (per £1,000)	£	-00
DIVIDEND (per £1,000)	£	-00
SECOND (per £1,000)	£	-00

Signature: _____
Date: _____
Post Code: _____
Telephone: _____

THE M&G GROUP

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. The Trusts for Dividend and Recovery are Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND are Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

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FAMILY MONEY/2

Protection package that eases the cost of family travelling

A "roving" holiday insurance policy was launched this week, and is available for practically any holiday you book. It is called The Travel Protection Plan 1986, and it provides more or less standard levels of cover.

We compared it to the policy recommended by the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) which is called Supersure Plus. ABTA's policy generally works out cheaper for adults, but the 50 per cent reduction in premiums for children under 16 offered by the Travel Protection Plan 1986 means that families should generally get cheaper cover with the new policy.

TPP provides adequate medical expense cover of up to £500,000, but in common with almost all package insurance policies the baggage and personal effects cover is limited. With TPP you get overall cover of £200 and a single item limit of £200 (Supersure Plus provides cover of £750 and £250, respectively). But do watch out for the fact that the small print lists a whole host of items - such as jewellery, watches, cameras, for example, where the maximum payout for loss or damage to all of these items collectively is limited to £200.

If you are taking valuable items away with you check to see that they are adequately covered - generally either through individual insurance or the all-risk section of your household policy. Holiday package policies alone are inadequate.

The Travel Protection Plan 1986 is available through some, but not all, travel agents and direct from the brokers Crispin Speers and Partners, 41 Crutched Friars, London EC3 (tel: 01-480 5083).

Glittering trio from the Britannia

Britannia Building Society has announced changes in some of its higher interest earning accounts. The old 7-day and 60-day notice accounts and the 1-year term share account will close on January 11. They are to be replaced on January 15 by three instant access Gold accounts offering slightly better interest for higher minimum investments.

The best of the three will be Trident Super Gold, offering a net rate of 9.5 per cent on a minimum balance of £10,000. The best rate offered from the accounts being closed was 9.5 per cent. However, the minimum balance required was only £500.

Investors with only £250 to £500 will not benefit from the change - the new Trident Gold account will offer them the same 9.25 per cent as holders of the 7-day account enjoy. But if you have a large investment in

MAY I REMIND YOU, PORTHURP, GABLEDEGAFF IS NOT A MINORITY GROUP LANGUAGE...



We recently praised the Halifax for producing some information leaflets in minority group languages. Bedford and Bingley Building Society has reminded us that it has been producing one in a number of Asian languages since June 1984, and the list of languages available includes Welsh.

any of these accounts you should consider moving to Super Gold - funds are not transferred automatically in cases like this.

The name's bond...

Fixed income at a time of little or no inflation has its charms for those dependent on income from investments to pay the bills. And although building societies are offering between 8 and 10 per cent net of income tax on extra interest accounts, this could come down at any time. Guaranteed income bonds could be the answer and. financial adviser Chasa de Vere has one and two year bonds paying 9.7 per cent net of basic rate tax. Minimum investment is £1,000. Details from Chasa de Vere on 01-404 5768.

Hot for holiday cash

Times are certainly changing. Years ago we used to save regularly in a building society account to raise money for holidays. But the competition for our money is hotting up, and while Thomas Cook and Lunn Poly have been running holiday credit arrangements for some time the latest scheme from the Ileskon Consumer Co-operative Society looks a bad buy. Your borrowing limit with the Ileskon is a multiple of ten times the amount you choose to repay each month, but the

interest rate of 2.25 per cent per month works out to an APR of 30.6 per cent - higher than Access or Visa and on a par with some of the "in house" credit cards.

Healthy bonus rate

A healthy increase in terminal bonus rates was announced this week by the General Accident Life Assurance. The new rate is 15 per cent up, at 70 per cent of attaching bonuses for post-1981 life policies, compared with 55 per cent announced by the company at the end of last year. Pension policy rates are increased from 40 per cent to 50 per cent for the same period, while increases of up to 58 per cent were seen on some pre-1982 life policies.

Norman Graham, general manager of General Accident Life, says "this investment performance" enables the company to declare the increased bonuses combined with "the exceptional strength of our reserves".

BES at a glance

The BES Magazine in its January issue includes some useful pages on certain details and implications of the relevant BES legislation. Editor John Harrison says he hopes "this will stimulate further evaluation of the merits and also certain shortcomings which still make the BES less effective than it deserves to be".

If you want to take out a subscription to the magazine it will cost you £48 a year for 12 issues. It has the merit of providing detailed summaries of a broad range of BES issues. However, the magazine judges on the issues to date, rarely contains direct criticism of particular BES issues where it is merited. If you do not tell us directly which BES issues you should avoid, details from the publishers, Private Investor Publications, 1-3 Berry Street, London EC1V 0AA (Tel: 01-808 1036).

Aitken's new banner

For Aitken Hume read Sentinel. This is the message for those unit trusts and other funds managed under the banner of Aitken Hume Funds Management. These in future will bear the name Sentinel, reflecting the acquisition of the Sentinel Insurance Company in November 1985 by Aitken Hume.

Two of the unit trusts in this stable are broadening out to make these funds less speculative - the American Technology and the Japanese Technology trusts are being given a "and General" suffix to reflect the wider outlook that the trusts will take.

A 1 per cent discount on all the unit trusts is offered "to mark the occasion of the name change". Potential investors should bear in mind, however, that none of the Aitken Hume unit trusts reached the top ten of any sector, according to the one year figures we published last week.

The consumers' banker

If you have a complaint against a bank which you cannot resolve, even at head office level, then the Banking Ombudsman, Ian Edwards-Jones O.C., may be the man for you. The Office of the Banking Ombudsman became operational this week and will investigate complaints from individuals concerning the provision of personal banking services by a number of banks. Bear in mind that it is really only fresh complaints - those arising on or after January 1, 1986 - that the Banking Ombudsman will consider, and you must have tried your complaint at the bank's head office before turning to the Ombudsman.

Details, including advice on whether you fall within the scheme, from The Office of the Banking Ombudsman, Citadel House, 5/11 Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1BR.



Edwards-Jones: Advice you can bank on

Cannon takes aim

A new participant in the mortgage market has emerged in the form of Cannon Assurance, which is offering mortgages of between £15,000 to £135,000 at 12.75 per cent (APR 13.6 per cent). No differentials or arrangement fees, and loans will be up to 95 per cent of the property's valuation in certain cases. The new mortgage business is being carried out by CL Mortgage and further details are available from CL at 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0NB.

Winners poste haste

Now that the closing date for entries to the £2,500 Times-Bill Samuel Young Financial Writer of the Year Competition has passed, our judges can get down to the serious task of reading and evaluating your entries. Incidentally, as a consequence to the vagaries of the Christmas post we have decided to accept receipt of entries bearing a Post Office frank dated on or before December 31. The date of publication of the winning entries will be announced shortly.

This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for or purchase any shares

Hoskins Brewery PLC

Offer for subscription under the Business Expansion Scheme
Sponsored by Oceana Asset Management Ltd.

Tax relief available for 1985/6
Closing date of 10 January 1986

Should you have any questions or REQUIRE FURTHER COPIES OF THE PROSPECTUS FOR HOSKINS BREWERY PLC please contact John Corrigan on 01-588 7262 or Richard Ellert on 098 683 321

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the Regulations of The Stock Exchange.

Nationwide Building Society

(Incorporated in England under the Building Societies Act 1874)

Placing of £20,000,000 12 per cent Bonds due 12th January 1987

Listing for the bonds has been granted by the Council of The Stock Exchange. Listing Particulars in relation to The Nationwide Building Society are available in the Exel Statistical Services. Copies may be collected from Companies Announcements Office, P.O. Box No. 119, The Stock Exchange, London EC2P 2BT until 7th January 1986 and until 20th January 1986 from:-

Fulton Packshaw Ltd., 34-40 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JT
Laurie, Milbank & Co., Portland House, 72/73 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DP
Rowe & Pitman, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA

4th January 1986

Trusts with tax pitfalls

From M. A. Truman, *The Crossways, Heston, Hounslow, Middlesex*

I have followed with interest the various references to inheritance trust CTT schemes in recent issues of Family Money, since as a tax adviser I have grown increasingly worried about the number of clients who are sold these schemes when they may be completely inappropriate to their circumstances.

As an experiment, I asked half a dozen organisations purporting to offer CTT planning advice at the recent Money Exhibition what they would suggest for a widow who had inherited a substantial portfolio of blue-chip shares in the mid-1960s and had held on to them ever since.

Almost without exception these advisers, including very well-known merchant banks and life assurance companies, suggested an inheritance trust or discount gift scheme, whichever in fact the Capital Gains Tax are payable on such a portfolio going into such a scheme would, of course, have been far more than the CTT saved.

It is also worrying how many people believe these schemes to be "free", compared with professional advisers who charge for their services. However, as your article on December 7 pointed out, the actual value of the units allocated to the scheme is generally some 5 per cent less than the cash invested - how else could the companies pay the commissions they do?

The cost of setting up an appropriate discount trust, tailored to the client's own circumstances, and paying the Capital Gains Tax charge, and with no risk of Revenue challenge, is likely to be less for any transfer of more than £40,000 and if the transfer is made less than six months before the death of the donor, the cash or shares outright.

My understanding of the discount gift scheme, which is in a rather obscurely payable on such a portfolio going into such a scheme would, of course, have been far more than the CTT saved.

My understanding of the discount gift scheme, which is in a rather obscurely payable on such a portfolio going into such a scheme would, of course, have been far more than the CTT saved.

the schemes to the Special Commissioners, and then probably on to court.

The danger is that, in giving judgment on the more dubious schemes, the courts will make pronouncements that also affect the schemes still being marketed.

Estates which have already been agreed are unlikely to be reopened, but the estates of those who die after any such judicial pronouncement will be decided in accordance with it, even though the scheme may have been effected several years ago.

Anyone who thinks that the Revenue would not be so unfair should talk to the unfortunate purchasers of Capital Gains Tax schemes in the mid-1970s, who now find that after the Ramsey and Furniss decisions their capital losses are not worth the paper they were manufactured on, and all they have left is the hole in their bank account made by the very substantial fees that the scheme's promoters charged them.

BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

Your fifth opportunity to invest with the leader

Lazard Brothers have launched their Fifth Development Capital Fund - the final fund in the 85/86 tax year - to enable investors to take advantage of further investment opportunities.

The Fund's investment policy and the tax concessions of the BES together provide an outstanding investment opportunity for higher rate tax payers.

Three of the four previous Lazard

Development Capital Funds have been oversubscribed and if you intend to invest in the Fifth BES Fund during this tax year you should act without delay to avoid disappointment.

Total funds raised by Lazard Brothers under the BES now exceed £14 million - the largest amount by any manager of Approved BES Funds - and investments have been made in 30 companies.

THE ADVANTAGES OF INVESTING IN THE LAZARD DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL FUNDS ARE:

1. The continuing flow of high quality investment proposals received by the managers
2. The ability of the managers to select investments considered to possess both growth potential and security
3. The commercial experience of the managers
4. The managers' involvement in monitoring companies which is designed to reduce the risk of losses
5. The well balanced spread of investments
6. Long-term plans for realisation of investments

OFFER CLOSES LATEST JANUARY 15

The minimum subscription level has now been exceeded. The application list may be closed at any time, up to and including 15 January 1986, at the managers' discretion.

Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited

For a copy of the memorandum, on the basis of which alone applications can be made, please telephone Jane Lamont on 01-588 2721 or send this coupon in 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT

Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks as well as the chance of higher rewards.

The minimum subscription is £2,000 and the maximum subscription is £40,000.

To: Jane Lamont, Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited, 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT
Please send me a Memorandum on The Fifth Lazard Development Capital Fund

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

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It calls for the breadth of international contacts and the depth of worldwide resources that the new Global Growth Trust from Scimitar offers.

There's nothing dramatically different about the aim of the trust: to achieve high and increasing capital growth by investing in a carefully-selected portfolio of top-performing international stocks and shares.

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Scimitar has also managed to attract some of the most talented and respected professionals in the business to its fund management team - and the result is an opportunity that no serious investor can afford to ignore.

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Sharpen up your investment prospects today - complete and return the coupon now.

General Information
Contract notes will be issued by return. Certificates will be issued approximately 4 weeks later. After 17th January 1986 the daily prices and yields will be published in leading national newspapers. Managers: Scimitar Asset Management Limited.
Fees: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.
Charges: An initial charge of 5% is included in the Offer Price of the units, thereafter 1% per annum (+VAT) of the Fund's value, will be deducted from the Trust's income. The Trust deed allows for a maximum charge of 2% per annum; the managers will give unit holders at least three months' written notice of any change.
Setting Units: Units may be sold back on any business day at the bid price netting on receipt of instructions. A cheque for payment will normally be sent within 7 days of receipt of a redeemed certificate.
Income Distribution: Distributions will be made on 30th June and 31st December. Investments made now will qualify for the first distribution on 30th June 1986.
Registered Office: 33-36 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 0AX.
Registered in England No. 1859037 (London).
Authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry. Member of the National Association of Security Dealers and Investment Managers.

LAUNCH DISCOUNT

If we wish to invest £ (minimum investment £500) in the Scimitar Global Growth Trust, income/accumulation units* at the launch price of 25p per unit, which will include a bonus of 1% extra units for the launch period, which runs from 28th December 1985 until 17th January 1986. Please make cheques payable to: Scimitar Asset Management Limited.

Post to: Scimitar Asset Management Limited, FREEPOST, London EC3B 3AD. Telephone: 01-623 5776/5763. The offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland. Details of all applicants. (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

Surname: Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
First names: (in full) _____
Address: (in full) _____
Date: _____
Signature(s): _____

I am/We are over 18. In the case of joint applicants, all must sign and attach names and addresses separately. For details of the Scimitar Share Exchange Scheme, please tick

*Delete as appropriate. Holders of income units will receive twice yearly payments. Holders of accumulation units will have their income reinvested. (If no unit preference is indicated, accumulation units will automatically be issued).

SCIMITAR HAS THE EDGE
Scimitar Asset Management Limited
Standard Chartered

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for fund name, manager, and performance metrics.

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Table containing unit linked insurance investments with columns for policy name, insurer, and investment details.

As it invests... the 1985 rates... the 1985 rates... the 1985 rates...

Vertical text on the right margin, possibly a page number or reference.

FAMILY MONEY/3

How to uncork a bargain

WINES

Much greater selectivity is required in the wine-investment market this year because of the large stocks of fine wine that have been attracted to the market, but which are not matched by current demand.

American investors, with big portfolios of quality claret, conscious of the lower value of the US dollar, have even been sending wines back across the Atlantic for sale.

The year ended on a high note for Christie's not only through selling on December 5 a bottle of 1787 "Lafite" engraved with Thomas Jefferson's initials, which at £105,000 made a world record for a single bottle of wine. UK sales for Christie's are up 32 per cent at £6.5 million, compared with £4.9 million in 1984. Its world wine sales amounted to more than £8.28 million (£6.07 million in 1984). Only 8 per cent of lots failed to meet reserve.

Christie's held 43 sales in the UK, including two in Scotland, and nine overseas. The value of the average lot has risen by 29 per cent, from £289 to £373.

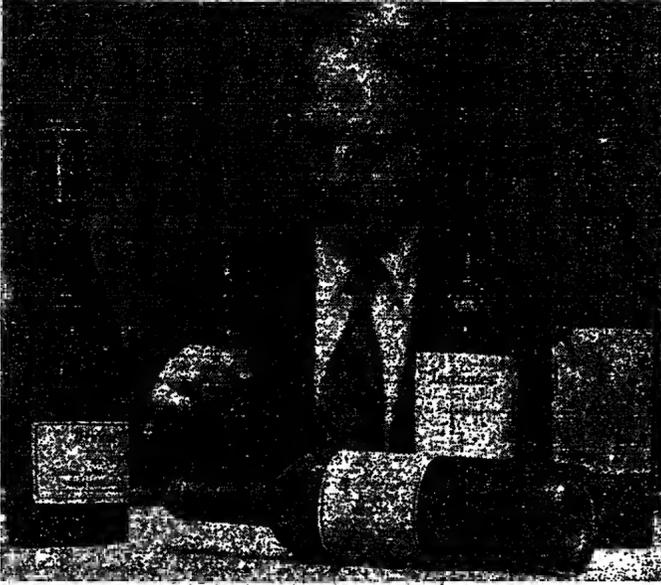
Sotheby's wine department held 23 sales including two in Sussex and one in Chester, at a sale value of £2.48 million (down from 1984's £2.98 million).

David Molynoux-Berry, master of wine and head of Sotheby's wine side, says prices have stabilized over the past few months, "creating a good opportunity to stock up". In its sale on January 22, there are several quality 1970 parcels of note such as 15 dozen bottles of Chateau Latour, 32 dozen bottles of Chateau Montan.

Growing demand for the 1982 clarets

Rothschild both estimated as in the £600-£750 range compared to £520 and £780 respectively a year ago and 10 dozen bottles of Chateau Palmer at £500-£600.

Michael Egan, also of Sotheby's, says 1970 clarets are not likely to slip further in price. He says that among the Bordeaux estates that are undervalued in their good vintages are Ausone, (substantially below Cheval-Blanc, a fellow "first great growth" of the St. Emilion district), Figeac-Chateau from the Pessac district, St. Gaudens and most of the third and fourth growths. Mr Egan says Lafon-



Taste of perfection: Duncan McEwen of Christie's and some classic vintages

Rochet, Petrus and Pontet are overpriced.

The strengthening price of Ausone is confirmed by the demand for 1982 clarets in general. Duncan McEwen of Christie's says, "St. Emilion and Pomerol have spearheaded the demand for particularly fashionable chateaux such as La Consellante and La Fleur-Petras. Indeed, Ausone 1982 sold for £1,050 for six magnums recently and jumped in the last fortnight to £3,600 for three double magnums.

For the first time, Sotheby's is offering the 1983 claret vintage on January 22. Nine estates come under the hammer, including Beycheville (estimate £120-£160), Lynch Bages (£120-£160), Cheval-Blanc (£420-£480) and Latour (£400-£460). They are offered under bond, which saves the investor £8.82 a case in duty.

Wine companies operating under the Business Expansion Scheme will continue to be evident in the saleroom in view of the legislative requirement to trade. Mr McEwen expects 1978 and 1979 clarets to sell above the rate of inflation but older

vintages - like 1971, 1975 and 1976 are "in a vacuum" awaiting several years more maturity.

White burgundy has been a star of the auction room and looks set to continue, particularly for 1982 and 1983 vintages. Look for top Meursault, Corton Charlemagne and both Montrachet and Chevalier-Montrachet.

The '70s ports will show biggest rise

Rhone and Madeira are both moving into prominence. Only a short time ago merchants were offering Hermitage La Chapelle 1983 for around £80, but it sold at Christie's on November 28 for £340. Fine Cote-Rotie (like Gaigal) and white Rhone (such as Condrieu) look likely to outperform the market. Dated Solera and fine vintage Madeira are attracting similar attention.

The vintage port market is steady. The 1983 is firm at about £320 a case and should be held. The 1966 is popular and short on stocks. Mr McEwen

says: "The 1967 is good and underrated." Like the forward 1958, the 1975 ports are already drinking well and likely to appreciate through restaurateur demand. Yet the 1960s have lost appeal, moving to a disappointing £220-£240 a dozen bottle level.

The major 1986 rise in vintage port will surely be in 1970s (now about £200) and the 1977s. It is well worth comparing merchants' lists pre-Budget with the saleroom and a good idea for the New Year is to take out annual subscriptions for the leading houses' lists such as Sotheby's at £29 and Christie's at £38.

Because wine investors find it difficult on time to attend both the tastings of stock the day before and the sale itself, Christie's has made a welcome change in its arrangements. From January it will hold its pre-sale tastings immediately before the auction. Its first one will be of Bordeaux wines on January 16 with a tasting from 9.45 am to 10.45 am for an 11 am sale start.

Conal Gregory

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Banks
Current account - no interest paid.
Deposit accounts - seven days, notice required for withdrawals.
Barclays 5.75 per cent, Lloyds 5.75 per cent, Midland 5.75 per cent, NatWest 5.75 per cent, National Girobank 6 per cent. Fixed term deposits £10,000-£24,999, 1 month 8.125 per cent, 3 months 8.125 per cent, 6 months 8.125 per cent, National Westminster, 1 month 7.85 per cent, 3 months 7.75 per cent, 6 months 7.65 per cent, Midland. Other banks may differ.

MONEY FUNDS
Fund Net GNAR Telephone
Allian Home Monthly Inc. 8.22 8.57 01 638 8070
B of Scotland 8.22 8.53 01 638 6060
Barclays High Rate Deposit Account £1,000-29,999 8.37 8.64 01 628 1567
£10,000 & over 8.52 8.80 01 628 1567
Cater Allen call 8.03 8.33 01 588 2777
Gilt-edged Money Mkt. Plus 8.11 8.50 01 748 9251
HFC Trust 7 day 8.50 8.79 01 236 5391
Henderson Money Market Cheque Account 8.22 8.58 01 638 5787
Lloyds HCA 8.25 8.51 01 638 4388
M & P HCA 8.22 8.51 01 925 4588
Midland HCA £2,000-29,999 8.00 8.24 07 42 20999
£10,000 & over 8.30 8.56 07 42 20999
Nat West High Interest Special Reserve £2,000 to £8,999 8.37 8.64 01 728 1000
£10,000 & over 8.62 8.91 01 728 1000
Oppenheimer Money Management Under £10,000 8.22 8.48 01 238 8382
Over £10,000 8.31 8.55 01 238 8382
S & P Call 8.10 8.43 07 63 9599

Shredder-Walcy Money Fund
£2,000 to £5,999 8.04 8.34 07 65 827733
over £10,000 8.22 8.54 07 65 827733
Call & Rally call 8.28 8.54 01 236 8826
8.48 8.80 01 238 9532
T & T call 8.24 8.51 02 72 732941
Tynard call 8.25 8.51 02 72 732941
Tynard 7 day 8.12 8.37 01 628 4881
Western Trust 1 month 8.32 8.64 07 52 281181
GNAR - Compounded Net Annual Rate. Figures are the latest available at the time of going to press.

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts - if a minimum balance of £100 maintained for whole of 1986, 6 per cent interest p.a. for each complete month in which balance is over £500, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Account - 11.5 per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, one month notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £50,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min. investment £2,000 - max. £50,000. Interest - 12 per cent variable at six weeks notice paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 months' notice. Penalties in first year.

National Savings Indexed Income Bond
Start rate monthly income for first year, 8 per cent, increased at end of each year to match increase in prices as measured by Retail Prices Index. Cash value remains the same, income taxable, paid gross. Three months notice of withdrawal. Minimum investment £5,000, in multiples of £1,000, maximum £50,000.

National Savings 3rd Index-linked certificates
"Maximum" investment £5,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 2.5 per cent in the first year, 2.75 per cent in the second year, 3.25 per cent in the



third year; 4 per cent in the fourth year and 5.25 per cent in the fifth year. Value of Retirement Issue Certificates purchased in December 1980, £153.20 including bonus and supplement.

November RPI 378.4
(The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

National Savings Certificates
31st issue. Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 7.85 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Yearly Plan
A one year regular savings plan converting into four-year savings certificates. Minimum £20, Maximum £200 a month. Return over five years 8.18 per cent - tax free.

National Savings Deposit Bond
Minimum investment £100 maximum £50,000. Interest 12 per cent

variable at six weeks notice credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice. Half interest only paid on bonds repaid during first year.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. 1.2, 3, 4 yrs. General Portfolio 5 per cent, 5 yrs New Direction Finance 9.1 per cent.

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers until April 1986, when CRT becomes payable). 1 yr Mosely 7.5 per cent, min investment £1,000; 2 yrs Kirkklaus 8 per cent, min investment £500; 3-7 yrs Edinburgh, 8 per cent, min investment £500; 8-10 yrs Thameside, 7 per cent, min investment £500. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy, Loans Bureau (01-638 6381 between 10am and 2.30pm) see also Prestel no 24808.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts - 7.00 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1 to 2 per cent over the ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Intl. Reserves 0481 26741. Seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

Shoring 10.25 per cent
US dollar 7.21 per cent
Yield 7.13 per cent
D Mark 9.82 per cent
French Franc 9.84 per cent
Swiss Franc 7.70 per cent

SPECIAL COMPETITION OFFER

1986

Here's how TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust can make it your year for profit

To quote our Investment Managers: "1986 could be a quiet year but one which will nevertheless offer profitable opportunities to those who know where to find them".

Which is why they have nominated TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust as our entry for the "Daily Telegraph" Unit Trust Managers' Competition for 1986. Because TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust is ideally placed to take advantage of every profitable opportunity which may occur throughout the coming year.

Wide investment scope
The strength of TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust lies in its freedom to invest when and wherever the Investment Managers see the chance of making profits.

As the graph here shows, this aggressive and dynamic approach has more than paid off. In fact, those who invested at the launch in April 1982 have seen the value of their original investment more than double since then.

And now, with a proven strategy behind it, TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust is set to continue its progressive trend, and improve on it.

Confidence in the year ahead
As we have said, our Investment Managers expect 1986 to be quiet for markets as a whole. But, with their freedom to invest in Europe (where the markets have been producing good returns), in the UK

(where there are still profits to be made from the underlying strength of our economy), and internationally when they see fit, they believe this Trust will produce healthy returns in 1986. And we believe it will do well in the "Daily Telegraph" Competition, a contest in which we have achieved a better aggregate return over three years than any other participating group.

Invest today for a bonus
You should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. And you should regard your investment as a medium to long term one. Nevertheless, convinced as we are that ours is the Trust to choose for the coming year, we are offering a bonus to early investors. The minimum investment in TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust is £250 but, if you invest £1,000 or more before January 31st, 1986, we will add a bonus of 1% of extra units to your holding, entirely free of charge. So don't delay. Invest with us today, and look forward to a promising year ahead.

THE FACTS ABOUT THIS TRUST
Managers: TSB Unit Trusts Limited (Members of the Unit Trust Association), Investment Managers: Central Trustee Savings Bank Limited, Trustees: General Accident, E. & A. and Trustee Company Limited. Charges: 5% on initial purchase; thereafter 1% p.a. (plus VAT) of the Fund's value, deducted from the Trust's income. The Trust Deed allows for a maximum charge of 1% p.a. The Managers will give notice of any change of price of the units. Selling units: Units can be sold back on any business day at the bid price ruling on receipt of instructions. Payment will normally be made within 7 days of receipt of a renounced unit certificate. Intermediaries: Units may be purchased through qualified intermediaries to whom remuneration is payable at rates which are available on request. Prices: Units Offer price for Accumulation Units 36.4p estimated current gross yield 2.3% both on December 24th 1985. Prices and yield are quoted daily in the national press. Income distributions: May 6th and November 6th each year. Registered Office: Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Registered in England and Wales, number 1629923.

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A TOP PERFORMER
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TSB SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES UNIT TRUST
Bonus Application Form valid until January 31st 1986

To: Fred Shafoe, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Tel: (0264) 65452/3/4

I/We wish to invest £ (min. £250 in the TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust at the price ruling on the day of receipt of this application and to include a 1% bonus issue of units, if I/we invest £1,000 or more by 31.1.86.

I/We enclose a cheque payable to TSB Unit Trusts Limited.

As a general rule, Accumulation Units, with income reinvested, will be issued to all investors. If you would prefer Income Units, with income distributed twice yearly, please tick here

SURNAME (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____
BLOCK CAPITALS
Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms (Forenames) _____
Address _____
Post Code _____
Signature _____
Date _____

In the case of joint applications, all applicants must sign and attach their own addresses on a separate sheet of paper. This offer is only open to investors who are 18 years or over. It is not open to residents of the Channel Islands.

Newsworthy!

Unit Trust Managers of the year.*

Perpetual's the top performer
... Perpetual takes The Observer's 1985 Unit Trust Managers of the Year award. A richly deserved award. Its investment team - chairman Marilyn Arbib, Bob Yarbury, Scott McGlashan and Martin Rasch - have been producing performance plus well for many years...
* OBSERVER 15th Dec '85

Unit Trust Managers of the year
... Over the year, every single Perpetual Fund has moved into the black... Over the last 12 months, the Perpetual Funds have produced an average weighted performance of 27.7 per cent...
* MONEY MAGAZINE Dec '85

Who is best of the biggest unit Managers?
... awards for consistency to Perpetual... for achieving a place in the top five for all the years shown. (One year, two years, three years, four years, five years and ten years.)
Daily Telegraph 13th July '85

Few stars in the world ranking
... Perpetual Group Growth Fund now renamed Perpetual International Growth Fund also features consistently among the best performers...
FINANCIAL TIMES 16th Dec '85

In the eleven years since launching the Group's first unit trust in the United Kingdom, Perpetual has earned an enviable reputation for consistent investment success.

International Growth Fund
UP 2242%
1974-1985

Income Fund
UP 232%
capital growth
op 100%
1979-1985

International Growth Fund
The top authorised fund over the eleven year period to the 31st December 1985.

Income Fund
The top income fund for capital growth over the six years since launch on June 1979 to 31st December 1985.

and next? Send for advance details of Perpetual's new Fund.
The Perpetual Group, 36 Hat Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2AZ.
Tel: Henley-on-Thames (0491) 576866.

SURNAME (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____
ADDRESS _____
POST CODE _____ TMS 4/1/86

Perpetual
Member of the TSB Unit Trusts Association

* N.B. All figures are as at December 1985 and include the interest income for the International Growth Fund. Figures quoted are on an after tax effect basis. You should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

FAMILY MONEY/4

Quick cash? Not the BES way

BUSINESS EXPANSION

Anyone interested in underwriting Business Expansion Scheme issues should note that a call on the underwriters has recently been made for one BES scheme. Chelsea Restaurants, which was seeking a minimum of £800,000 from investors (maximum £2.5 million) managed to raise only £350,000. The issue was underwritten and therefore the underwriters have been called to make up the deficit, which they have done.

Chelsea Restaurants was sponsored by Johnson Fry and is the first of the underwritten Johnson Fry BES issues to entail a call on the underwriters. Johnson Fry highlights two reasons for the failure of Chelsea Restaurants to reach its minimum subscription level. First, investors are holding back their BES investment capacity, preferring at this stage to aim for underwriting fees, and making their BES investment closer to the end of the tax year.

Second, press comment on the likelihood of the Inland Revenue threatening the BES status of asset-backed schemes generally, has, according to Johnson Fry, put many investors off. Chelsea Restaurants, in common with all Johnson Fry BES schemes, had a substantial element of asset-backing.

To fact the Inland Revenue is still scrutinizing asset-backed

schemes generally; certain types are being examined by the Revenue, as potentially containing provisions in the way they are operating (or intend to operate, that would take them outside the ambit of the BES.

The Chelsea Restaurants experience illustrates that BES underwriting is not simply a passport to a quick cash hand-out.

Ardenote plc is looking for up to £450,000 to finance improvements to the Ardenote Country Club, located in Warwickshire. Although the executive directors have invested £100,000 of their own money, they do not appear from the prospectus to have much relevant experience. Moreover, the sponsors have taken an option over 50,000 shares at the 50p price only (outside investors pay 75p now) up to June 30, 1991.

The company has outstanding secured loan facilities of £339,807, precious little information is given on the past trading record of the club and the issue expenses are fairly high.

Meanwhile, the accompanying table shows those BES opportunities still open to investors. Bear in mind that as the end of the tax year approaches there is likely to be a rush of new BES issues aimed at affording investors a final opportunity to qualify for this year's BES tax relief.

Lawrence Lever

SOME BES SCHEMES STILL AVAILABLE TO INVESTORS

Table with columns: Company/Fund name, Sponsor, Minimum Investment, Closing date. Lists various BES schemes like Riverside Racquet Centre, Hoskins Brewery PLC, City Fine Wine PLC, etc.

Research: Sue Proud, The Times

*Closing dates may be extended

A firmer footing for the early leavers

PENSIONS

New provisions aimed at improving the pension rights of early leavers are contained in the Social Security Act 1985, which came into force this week.

Under the Act, employees who have accumulated only five years pensionable service in order to qualify for a preserved pension. The previous additional requirement, that they must also have reached the age of 26, will no longer apply.

Moreover, for certain employees leaving employment after January 1, 1986, there will be a statutory requirement on employers to increase the value of their preserved pension.

This requirement will apply only to the pension benefits that an employee has accumulated since January 1, 1985. In the case of contracted-out pension schemes, the revaluation of

pension benefits will only apply to the balance over and above the guaranteed minimum pension (GMP).

For final pay pension schemes the relevant preserved pension must be increased by at least 5 per cent per annum or the level of increase in the retail prices index, whichever works out lower.

The new law applies also to money purchase pension schemes. These cannot be contracted out of the state earnings related scheme (SERPS). The new law provides that the treatment of any preserved pension in a money purchase scheme must be the same as that applicable to pensions remaining within the scheme.

In other words there must be no discrimination, in terms of matters such as interest and bonus payments, between preserved pensions and existing pensions within a money purchase scheme.

Another change which came into force this week gives employees the option to transfer their accrued pension rights to a new company pension scheme or to an insurance company, to

fund a special pensions policy known as a buy-out or transfer plan, as an alternative to maintaining a preserved pension.

The calculation of transfer values must conform to guidelines issued last month by the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries. Moreover, transfer values must be at least equivalent to the deferred or preserved pension.

In the case of an employee moving from a contracted-out to a non-contracted out scheme, the GMP must, according to the new law, remain in the old scheme, with the transfer value requirements only applying to the balance of the pension benefits.

Provisions in the Social Security Act 1985 concerning the disclosure of information by trustees to pension scheme members are still under consideration. The government intends to publish regulations on this subject which are provisionally scheduled to come into effect on April 1.

For a free booklet, How Changing Jobs Affects Your Pension, which sets out the position of early leavers, send a large size to the Company Pensions Information Centre, 7 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 3LJ.

Specialist fund for Yorkshire businesses

UNIT TRUSTS

This week saw the latest offering of specialist unit trusts with the launch of the Yorkshire General Trust, which will be investing at least 75 per cent of investors' money in Yorkshire companies.

About 144 companies qualify for the "Yorkshire" label, according to the managers of the new trust, the Yorkshire General Unit Trust Ltd. These will be companies with Yorkshire headquarters or whose main activities are located in Yorkshire.

This does not mean that only local companies will come under the managers' scrutiny; others with national operations such as the Burton Group and ASDA-MFI, according to the managers, warrant the Yorkshire description.

Whether there is any value to investors in distinguishing a group of companies by the "Yorkshire" criterion is open to question. The managers consider there is a valid distinction to be made, and their introductory leaflet refers to "the Y.T. Index".

This is the York Trust's Index incorporating the 144 Yorkshire companies, which was first compiled on March 1 1985. It is published weekly in the Yorkshire Post. The introductory leaflet shows an overall increase of 285 per cent in the share prices of the constituent companies from October 1 1985 to now as against an FT 30 Index increase for the same period of 198 per cent.

There are potential conflicts of interest

The managers also point out that since the compilation of the Y.T. Index it has out-performed both FTSE 100 and the FT 30. You should tread carefully with such comparisons, because the "Yorkshire" connection is not one that is widely recognized.

It is also worth noting that there is always considerable scope for manipulating comparative statistical evidence by choosing the optimum starting date to determine the period over which the comparison is to be made. Though the companies in the so-called Y.T. Index show a share price increase that outstrips those of the FT 30 since October 1975, the picture changes considerably if you take a more recent view.

For instance, from January 1981 to March 1 1985, the FT 30 Index has risen by more than 80 per cent, as opposed to a rise of approximately 60 per cent in the Y.T. Index.

Other aspects of the Yorkshire General Trust worth looking out for include the fact that two of the directors of the management company are partners in the Huddersfield firm of stockbrokers Batty Wimpeny & Dawson. Most of the share transactions involved in the management of the unit trust will, at least initially, be carried out through this firm.

The board of the management company also includes three directors of "Yorkshire" companies.

All in all there are undoubtedly potential conflicts of interest, and the "Yorkshire" concept is certainly open to question.

For further information contact the Yorkshire General Trust, Woodhouse House, Woodhouse Road, Fenay Bridge, Huddersfield HD8 0JG. Tel no 0484 602250.

RUGBY UNION The price of fame could prove costly for Bath

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

It is a sign of rugby's cyclical nature that what was considered a disaster supplied England with seven players in 1984, with consequent disruption to their cup plans, Bath's trio of selectors set down for five hours yesterday to plan their approach to the Player Special Cup match with Oxford on January 25, knowing that they will not see their leading players in matches between now and then.

England have a squad meeting tomorrow and next weekend before the meeting with Wales on January 18 and Bath, affected by injuries today, have seven players involved with the match squad. Leicester have only one, which could give body to their own hopes this season.

The other home countries were into selection action during the coming week Ireland's team to play France is chosen tomorrow. Scotland's (also against France) has a fortnight earlier on Wednesday and Wales, who have squad training on Monday, next Friday.

The Welsh have added Huw Richards, the North lock, to their squad since losing Richard Moriarty for disciplinary reasons though they have made no adjustments yet to the back despite the loss through injury of Iwan Evans (Llanelli) and the retirement from internationals of Gwyn Evans, the Maesteg utility back.

It is also a sign of the times that the new year should start with news of disciplinary action, amateurian and Australian, the Welsh Rugby Union propose to take no further action against Newport who has two players sent off against London Welsh in November. The WRU consider that the club have taken sufficient action against the two players today at Dover but the WRU have, however, moved against Steven Ford, the Cardiff wing. He has been banned from

playing Rugby Union after taking part in a Rugby League trial for Leeds, a fact which is not contested but was somewhat invidiously revealed to the union by way of an anonymous letter.

The union had no alternative. International Board regulations specifically prohibit players who have had trials for "a non-amateur rugby organisation" and Ford is only the latest of many players who have had trials, not all of whom have been discovered to have done so.

In the current climate, however, much will be made of Ford's misdemeanour, writes David Hands, the Rugby League spokesman, who has now a case for the Sports Council and the Government, because it is discrimination and a more blatant example cannot be provided. The player did not need to play and just played alongside professional sportsmen.

The regulations are, however, quite clear in this instance and it will be instructive to see how members of parliament, the Sports Council or any other interested party intends moving against the somewhat amorphous International Board, the body responsible for Rugby Union's amateur regulations.

The Australians are those from Queensland, who begin their tour to Britain and Ireland against Kent at Blackheath tomorrow. Six internationals, including Skelton, last season's grand-captain captain, plays against the county championship semi-finalists, five of them in the back.

The weather has forced a change of venue for the colts county final, sponsored by the National Westminster Bank. Kent were due to play Yorkshire today at Dover but the pitch is waterlogged and the Canterbury club have taken over the match.

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

Moseley v Cardiff Moseley are unchanged from the side who lost to Gloucester on New Year's Day. Roberts, the Wales flanker, returns to the side. The back division is the same as that which helped score 30 points against Bath on Wednesday.

Coventry v Neath Coventry have five absences, among them Roberts and Brain, the England forwards who are committed to international squad week-ends. Manserv continues at stand-off half while the captain, rugby union and Crumb, who has seven colleagues returning to the Neath side, including the international Thorburn and Rees.

Northampton v L. Welsh Gary Peura, the England prop, makes his first appearance for a month in the Welsh side. The Welsh captain moves to stand-off where the Welsh also make a change. Howard Evans, who has been out of the team since he was sent off against London Welsh in November, makes his return to the side.

Cardiff v Newport Cardiff are unchanged from the side who lost to Gloucester on New Year's Day. Roberts, the Wales flanker, returns to the side. The back division is the same as that which helped score 30 points against Bath on Wednesday.

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All Scottish positions begging to be filled

By Ian McLachlan

There have been few more important games in the Scottish domestic season than today's international trial at Murrayfield. Virtually every place in the national side is there for the taking. The Blues, or senior side, with an average age of nearly 29 years, can hardly be claimed to be picked for this reason.

The most interesting areas of challenge will come on the wing from Baird, who must convince the selectors that his all-round footballing ability is of more value to them than is the fine, but not so well known, Dundee or Tullach. The latter is still a little unsure under the high ball and could be vulnerable.

The senior halfback, Laidlaw and Rutherford, have certain Scottish through many a storm. Both will, however, find themselves under increasing pressure from Hunter, who has understudied Laidlaw in the South of Scotland and Scotland camps, a decent Wylie, the stand-off half, who is the man on form. Given a fair share of possession, this pair can be fairly confident of promotion.

Among the forwards the scrum-mingling deal between Miles and the improving Sole could determine the loose-head position, while in the problem area of the second row James and Craig will be tested as their best to resist the challenge of Campbell and Campbell-Lamerton.

The final back-row mix could well be determined by their ability to provide the firm, but not too stiff, Only White of the four flankers on view possesses real strength in the tackle and an appetite for defensive chores. Added to this, his finest ability was in the Edinburgh South of Scotland, who he has played for some three weeks. He injured his ribs in the Edinburgh South of Scotland, who he has played for some three weeks. He injured his ribs in the Edinburgh South of Scotland, who he has played for some three weeks.

The other two players who withdrew from last week's games, Rutherford (groin strain) and Robertson (shoulder bruising), have reported fit. All players and replacements will be named on a squad get-together at Murrayfield tomorrow.

Instonians aim for top place

By George Ace

Instonians can underwrite their claims to finish top of the Section B of the Digital Ulster Senior League by winning the re-arranged game against struggling CYMS, still unbeaten after four games, at Belmullet this afternoon. It is the only league fixture of the day.

Instonians have maximum points from their four games, and although they have been struggling a little in the past, they are confident of their two internationalists, David Irwin and Keith Cusack, their all-round strength should prove conclusive against an unsettled CYMS side.

Instonians are in action against Ravenhill, this time against Ulster Shams, who will be captained by Mark McCall. And the Ulster boys are fully confident of extending their fine record to their two internationalists, who have only been beaten once - by England in 1974 - in two previous tours of these islands, and are unbeaten to date on the current tour.

Roger Anderson, of London Welsh, has been called into the Combined Provinces team to meet Ireland in the final Irish trial at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, on Sunday. Anderson replaces Jim Croly (Ulster) who is injured on the left wing, as Croly is rated out by a leg injury.

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FRIENDLY SOCIETIES Financial journalists often recommend Friendly Societies as ideal for savers because BUILDING SOCIETY SAVINGS EARN 30% MORE WHEN INVESTED THROUGH A FRIENDLY SOCIETY. Homeowners, the largest, invests £100 million on behalf of 160,000 savers.

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Base Lending Rates ABN Bank 11 1/2%, Adam & Company 11 1/2%, BCCI 11 1/2%, Citibank Savings 12 1/2%, Consolidated Crds 11 1/2%, Continental Trust 11 1/2%, Co-operative Bank 11 1/2%, C. Hoare & Co 11 1/2%, Lloyds Bank 11 1/2%, Nat Westminster 11 1/2%, Royal Bank Scotland 11 1/2%, TSB 11 1/2%, Citibank NA 11 1/2%

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Mallieu tips balance Durham were right back in the match immediately on the resumption when Underwood, brother of the England wing, scored a magnificent try on the left from an overcast.

CROSS-COUNTRY Cameras will be absent again in Milk event Of the three main domestic cross-country races outside of championships in Britain, last year's Milk International at Mallieu, near Belper, was the most exciting.

YACHTING Lion roars home but is 64 seconds too late Two more boats finished the second leg of the Whitbread 1986 World Race here yesterday and once again there were crowds of Cup Final proportions to greet them as they reached their berths.

Boat Show diary Prince at the Palace Prince Andrew is to open the National Dinghy Show, to be held at the Crystal Palace Sports Centre from March 8 to 9. The popularity of dinghy sailing has taken a knock in recent years because of the sailboat boom, but British dinghy sailors still number more than 350,000.

CRICKET

Zimbabwe threaten ban if four on blacklist do not sign declaration

By Nicholas Ashford

The cricketing crisis caused by Bangladesh's decision to ban four England B players who have coached in South Africa yesterday threatened to spread to Zimbabwe, the third country on the team's proposed tour.

There were fears that the full England tour of the West Indies later this month could also be affected. Surman Mehta, vice-chairman of the Zimbabwe Sports and Recreational Council said in Harare that the team's tour would not go ahead next month unless the four players - Kim Barnett, Bill Athey, Martyn Moxon and Christopher Smith - promised not to have any more sporting contacts with South Africa.

"We will not renounce our position," Mr Mehta said. "If the four players don't sign declarations against having any more sporting contacts with South Africa... the team will definitely not be cleared." The four have been blacklisted by the United Nations for either playing or coaching in South Africa.

Acutely aware that sports and politics do not mix, the Foreign Office spent much of yesterday hitting aside suggestions that the Government should intervene in the controversy caused by Bangladesh's abrupt decision.

Some sporting enthusiasts, such as John Carlisle, Conservative MP for North Devon and chairman of the party's Parliamentary sports committee, urged Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, to secure assurances that England's forthcoming tour of West Indies should not suffer a similar last-minute cancellation.

It must be certain that there will be no objections to any of our players and that there will be no demonstrations against them," Mr Carlisle said. If the Foreign Office did not receive such assurances, the Test and County Cricket Board should pull out, he added.

The Foreign Office response was that the Government did not intend to get involved in talks on this issue. "This is a matter for the cricket authorities," a spokesman said.

On the other side of the political divide, anti-apartheid activists accused the Government of not abiding fully with the Commonwealth's 1977 Gleneagles Agreement and urged it to take a tougher approach towards sporting contacts with South Africa.

The Foreign Office retorted that the Government accepted the provisions of the Gleneagles Agreement, drawn up to curb sporting links with South Africa as far as was humanly possible. However, in matters of individual freedom, the Government could not impose travel restrictions on its own citizens, it added.

The mood in Government circles was a mixture of dismay that Bangladesh should have acted as it did - such short notice and annoyance with the English cricketing authorities for having selected players whose sporting links with South Africa laid them open to punitive action by Commonwealth countries.

Richard Tracey, the Minister of Sport, said Bangladesh's last-minute decision was "quite unreasonable." It was still unclear yesterday whether Bangladesh's action could provoke similar moves by other Commonwealth countries.

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Giant in the slalom: Gaspoz on his way to a second successive World Cup win

SKIING

Second win for Gaspoz despite poor conditions

Kranjska Gora, Yugoslavia (Reuters) - Joël Gaspoz of Switzerland, won his second World Cup giant slalom in two weeks on the Vitranc mountain here yesterday.

Luxembourg's World Cup holder Marc Girardelli, struggling to find his best slalom timing and rhythm, finished fourth to retain his overall World Cup lead.

On a course where conditions fluctuated markedly between the top and bottom, and where a thin new snow covering quickly wore down to ice, Gaspoz held off a strong challenge from Austria's Robert Strobl and West Germany's Markus Wasmeier, to finish in 2:03.03. Strobl was second in 2:04.20 and Wasmeier third in 2:04.48.

"You had to ski with real feeling because of the changing conditions," Gaspoz said. "This was not a perfect race. I can still ski better."

In the race here on December 20 Gaspoz's win partly because of a second-leg slip by the Italian Robert Erbacher, but yesterday he won on his own merits. "I was more aggressive, took more risks," he said.

There was a moment when he felt victory drifting away. "I had a slow start, but I pushed myself. I felt myself dropping back and was furious with myself," he said. "I pushed to the limits in the last stage."

Many racers felt this was the first major test of the season, with a full complement of stars, including Switzerland's Pirmin Zurbriggen, returning from injury, appearing among the top 15.

For Wasmeier, the giant slalom world champion, it was the best result since his second place in a downhill in Las Lenas, Argentina, in August and he felt himself closer to his goal of a first World Cup win.

Wasmeier, still seeking full fitness after having a knee operation last month, said: "I can build on this. Girardelli's fourth place was his best result in a technical discipline. This season he has been in the top 10 for enough for me. I'm skiing too far from the gates," the Austrian-born skier said.

Zurbriggen, the overall World Cup slalom champion last season, pleased with eleventh position, his first time in the top 15 this season. He had missed four races after injuring his back in training for the Val d'Isere downhill.

RESULTS: 1. J. Gaspoz (Switz), 2min 03.03sec; 2. R. Strobl (Austria), 2:04.20; 3. M. Wasmeier (West Germany), 2:04.48; 4. M. Wasmeier (West Germany), 2:04.52; 5. M. Wasmeier (West Germany), 2:05.48; 6. R. Erbacher (Italy), 2:05.61; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2:05.74; 8. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2:05.75; 9. M. Wasmeier (West Germany), 2:05.75; 10. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2:05.75; 11. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2:05.75; 12. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2:05.75; 13. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2:05.75; 14. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2:05.75; 15. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2:05.75.

OVERALL WORLD CUP STANDINGS: 1. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 2. M. Wasmeier (West Germany), 2,942 pts; 3. R. Strobl (Austria), 2,942 pts; 4. M. Wasmeier (West Germany), 2,942 pts; 5. M. Wasmeier (West Germany), 2,942 pts; 6. R. Erbacher (Italy), 2,942 pts; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 8. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 9. M. Wasmeier (West Germany), 2,942 pts; 10. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 11. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 12. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 13. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 14. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 15. P. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts.

OVERALL WORLD CUP GIANT SLALOM STANDINGS: 1. Gaspoz (Switz), 2,942 pts; 2. Strobl (Austria), 2,942 pts; 3. Wasmeier (West Germany), 2,942 pts; 4. Erbacher (Italy), 2,942 pts; 5. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 6. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 7. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 8. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 9. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 10. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 11. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 12. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 13. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 14. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 15. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts.

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OVERALL WORLD CUP DOWNHILL STANDINGS: 1. Gaspoz (Switz), 2,942 pts; 2. Strobl (Austria), 2,942 pts; 3. Wasmeier (West Germany), 2,942 pts; 4. Erbacher (Italy), 2,942 pts; 5. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 6. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 7. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 8. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 9. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 10. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 11. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 12. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 13. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 14. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 15. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts.

OVERALL WORLD CUP SUPER-G STANDINGS: 1. Gaspoz (Switz), 2,942 pts; 2. Strobl (Austria), 2,942 pts; 3. Wasmeier (West Germany), 2,942 pts; 4. Erbacher (Italy), 2,942 pts; 5. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 6. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 7. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 8. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 9. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 10. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 11. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 12. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 13. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 14. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 15. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts.

OVERALL WORLD CUP BOB STANDINGS: 1. Gaspoz (Switz), 2,942 pts; 2. Strobl (Austria), 2,942 pts; 3. Wasmeier (West Germany), 2,942 pts; 4. Erbacher (Italy), 2,942 pts; 5. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 6. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 7. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 8. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 9. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 10. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 11. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 12. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 13. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 14. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 15. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts.

OVERALL WORLD CUP LUGE STANDINGS: 1. Gaspoz (Switz), 2,942 pts; 2. Strobl (Austria), 2,942 pts; 3. Wasmeier (West Germany), 2,942 pts; 4. Erbacher (Italy), 2,942 pts; 5. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 6. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 7. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 8. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 9. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 10. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 11. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 12. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 13. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 14. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts; 15. Zurbriggen (Switz), 2,942 pts.

GOLF

Classic tale of Love in paradise

From Mitchell Platts Nassau

Davis Love III, who is competing in his first tournament as a professional, maintained an impressive challenge for the Bahamas Classic first prize of \$72,000 with a second round of 68 on the Paradise Island course here yesterday.

Love, a member of the United States team which beat Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup at Pine Valley last August, has a halfway aggregate of 133, which is 11 under par. He was joined on that mark by Bob Tway, another American, who added a 66 to an opening round of 67.

Roman Rafferty, the sole British challenger, completed a second round of 71 to bring his aggregate to 144, 20 over par. The American who led following a first round of 64, set out to chase the early pace-makers Love and Tway.

Rafferty, who made a disappointing start to last season following a year of inactivity, is not wasting any time proving his swing for 1986 when he will be seeking to win for the first time on the European circuit.

He got another three weeks in the West Indies, the tournament in Venezuela, Hong Kong, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe, followed by a \$30,000 Pro-Am at my home course of Warrenpoint. Rafferty explained that he had missed the only one event between November and April, and by the Open Championship I had won only \$7,000. But I finished the season in a position to play in the European order of merit, with winnings of \$46,000, and it showed that I played better by competing weekly.

Love, aged 21, a prodigious driver, is an interesting prospect on the American tour, which is currently in its second year. He is expected to revitalise the scene following the failure of Tom Watson, Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino to win in 1983.

He gathered five birdies on the 6,976 yards course, which places a premium on accurate driving with the pinpoints twisting among the pine trees, while Tway had six birdies to move alongside him.

SECOND ROUND LEADERS: US unless stated: 1. D. Love (68), 2. B. Tway (67), 3. R. Rafferty (67), 4. M. Wasmeier (68), 5. M. Wasmeier (68), 6. R. Erbacher (69), 7. P. Zurbriggen (69), 8. P. Zurbriggen (69), 9. M. Wasmeier (69), 10. P. Zurbriggen (69), 11. P. Zurbriggen (69), 12. P. Zurbriggen (69), 13. P. Zurbriggen (69), 14. P. Zurbriggen (69), 15. P. Zurbriggen (69).

OVERALL LEADERS: 1. D. Love (133), 2. B. Tway (133), 3. R. Rafferty (144), 4. M. Wasmeier (144), 5. M. Wasmeier (144), 6. R. Erbacher (144), 7. P. Zurbriggen (144), 8. P. Zurbriggen (144), 9. M. Wasmeier (144), 10. P. Zurbriggen (144), 11. P. Zurbriggen (144), 12. P. Zurbriggen (144), 13. P. Zurbriggen (144), 14. P. Zurbriggen (144), 15. P. Zurbriggen (144).

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TENNIS

Wilander fast but not forward

From Richard Evans, West Berlin

McEnroe and the current world number one, Ivan Lendl, bogged the headlines in 1985, it was Wilander who came closest to becoming the only player to win two Grand Slam titles when he lost to his fellow Swede, Stefan Edberg, in the final of the Australian Open.

Bjorn Hallberg, doyen of the Swedish tennis writers who has plotted the careers of Bjorn Borg and Wilander half ball, feels that Wilander's achievements are comparable in Borg's at the same age, save for the older man's triumphs at Wimbledon.

Wilander is a vastly under-rated player, but that is of no great concern to him. He watches the trials and tribulations that befall celebrities like McEnroe and Becker and hides behind his small, knowing smile, quite content to keep his fame at a manageable level.

Wilander has won his group and will meet the Swis Davis Cup player, Jakob Hlasek, who has a better overall record than the two other experienced players in his group, Henrik Sundstrom and Guy Forget.

Becker needed to beat the preening Czech, Martin Vajda, to qualify from his group and he wasted little time, winning 6-3, 6-2 in just under an hour. The remaining semi-final seemed to be within the grasp of the Italian, Ronald Agnelli, who needed only to take a set off Emilio Sanchez.

RED GROUP: M. Wilander (Sw) vs B. Eraser (Yug) 6-1, 6-1; H. Sundstrom (Sw) vs J. Hlasek (Czech) 6-3, 6-1; T. Muster (Austria) vs G. Forget (F) 7-5, 6-2; P. Lundgren (Swe) vs M. Vajda (C) 6-3, 6-2.

GREEN GROUP: P. Lundgren (Swe) vs J. Brown (USA) 6-4, 6-1; B. Becker (West Germany) vs G. Forget (F) 7-5, 6-2; P. Lundgren (Swe) vs M. Vajda (C) 6-3, 6-2.

YELLOW GROUP: J. Carlsson (Swe) vs C. Panatta (It) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

OVERALL LEADERS: 1. D. Love (133), 2. B. Tway (133), 3. R. Rafferty (144), 4. M. Wasmeier (144), 5. M. Wasmeier (144), 6. R. Erbacher (144), 7. P. Zurbriggen (144), 8. P. Zurbriggen (144), 9. M. Wasmeier (144), 10. P. Zurbriggen (144), 11. P. Zurbriggen (144), 12. P. Zurbriggen (144), 13. P. Zurbriggen (144), 14. P. Zurbriggen (144), 15. P. Zurbriggen (144).

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Why boys are the weaker sex

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The left-handed top seeds, Jane Wood (Enfield) and Aussen Brice (Stocport), will face younger opponents in today's singles final of the Prudential indoor championships of Britain at Queen's Club, West Kensington.

Miss Wood will play Sue McCarthy (Bristol), who was seeded only seventh but has not lost in six tournaments. They were seeded to contest today's final but Miss Wood had always played with the concentrated aggression she showed before Miss Wood beat Brice 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 yesterday.

The match would not have been as close if Miss Wood had always played with the concentrated aggression she showed before Miss Wood beat Brice 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 yesterday.

Cliffon's concerns, incidentally, is to recruit from regional coaches more over-16 boys for the weekly Bisham camps subsidised by the LTA.

John Clifton, the national training coach at Bisham Abbey, reckons that too many boys are finicky and more likely than girls to turn their noses at food that has not been cooked by their mothers.

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BOOK REVIEWS

A new key to unlock the treasures of Wisden

By Marcus Williams

Apart from an encyclopaedic memory or capacious private filing system, the user of Wisden has been notoriously accused of not taking to all intents and purposes it a year earlier.

The Who's Who of Cricketers, published by Newnes in October 1984, provided statistical and biographical details of everyone - including 11 with the distinction of neither being nor bowing in their only appearances who had played in a first-class match in the British Isles from 1846 to 1983 plus some earlier notables.

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MARRIAGES, DEATHS, BIRTHS. MARRIAGES: On January 3, 1986, at the Registrar's Office, London, by Rev. Canon J. H. ...

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RENTALS

THAMES RIVER'S EDGE. Find the ducks from the lounge of high level Super large & dry 3 bedroom flat overlooking river to Chipping ...

BIRTHS

ANSEL. On January 2nd, to Gerald and William - a son, Thomas, 50, to Miranda Rose, 48, and Sandy, 40, a son, Alexander, 1974.

DEATHS

ROBERTSON. On January 3, 1986, at the Registrar's Office, London, by Rev. Canon J. H. ...

U.K. HOLIDAYS

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ADSHAD. John Wilkins, aged 62 on January 3rd, peacefully at home. Husband of Mrs. Shirley, 60, and father of Mrs. Susan, 58, and Mrs. Margaret, 55.

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4-10 January 1986

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

Troubled times on paradise island

Radio's Desert Island Discs returns

tomorrow. But under Michael Parkinson it will be far less cosy than before. Even the choice of the first guest provoked some disagreement, as Bryan Appleyard reveals

Bruce Oldfield, dress designer to the likes of Joan Collins and the Princess of Wales, is facing Michael Parkinson, the new presenter of Radio 4's Desert Island Discs. They are having a pre-recording chat and "Parky" brings up the subject of the royal connections.

Suddenly deadly serious after all the mild banter, Oldfield leans forward and mutters urgently across the green baize table. "Don't ask me any direct questions about that. I know that the Queen listens to this programme and you know how cross she can get."

Parkinson absorbs this with a wry smile. The recording gets under way. Oldfield is anxious that he has still not worked out the one luxury he is allowed on the island, but otherwise he is fluent and confident... almost cocky.

But Parkinson has scented blood and, sure enough, up comes the question about dressing people like Princess Diana and Joan Collins. He attempts, not entirely successfully, to exude the air of a man who has just plucked any two names out of the air.

Oldfield falters but seems to recover with: "I'm usually in charge." Parkinson counters with a broad grin and: "You don't love the Royal displeasure then?"

Oldfield is definitely rattled now, but he manages: "You mean from Joan?" He waves an index finger in angry rebuke. The guile is now up and, even after a few more record breaks, Oldfield is clearly on the look out for more of the same. But Parkinson is a seasoned, gunner who has found his range; he measures his next shot flawlessly.

Coming in straight from a musical break, the Yorkshire accent at its blattest and most calculatedly philistine, he takes aim and fires: "Now, dress designing. Is it a proper job?" The Oldfield face drops and he bungles badly, coming up with a lame answer about how hard he works - "up to 10 hours a week just on promotion."

The recording ends. The luxury settled upon was an endless supply of cigarettes and the book, apart from the Bible and Shakespeare, was J. P. Donleavy's The Desires of Darcy Dancer, Gentleman.

As we file out of the sound engineer's box Parkinson bursts out of the studio and grabs me by the elbow. His eyes are those of a hunter after a successful kill. He had sweetly, smilingly and amiably "turned over" Oldfield and he knew it.

"Can you have a word with him?" He flicks his head in the direction of the producer Derek Drescher who, mercifully, cannot hear what is going on.

"Try to persuade him to put this one out first." One knows exactly what he means. After 43 years of the urbane flattery of Roy Plomley, Parkinson wanted his first show to announce that a new style had come to DID.

Unfortunately, a slightly shocked Drescher had already confided in me: "I don't think we can really start with this one." The poor man had produced the show for 10 years with Plomley. Now he was obviously glimpsing the possibility that one of the coziest and most amiable jobs in broadcasting was in serious danger.

Parkinson was threatening to detonate the formula. Drescher intended to open with a programme which Parkinson had already recorded with film director Alan Parker. It had - so the public relations story goes - some sentimental value as Parker was to have been the next Plomley castaway.

In fact even the Parker interview had broken the old Plomley mould. Parkinson had known the director of Midnight Express and Birdy for some time and had steered him on to the subject of the state of the British film industry. Parker had been usefully controversial, denying the existence of any revival and generally pouring cold water on the usual movie hype. It was just that bit more explosive than anything Plomley would have tried.

But all this was becoming a bit like intruding on private grief. There was little, under the circumstances, I could do for Parkinson. I made my excuses and left.

During a telephone conversation a few weeks later, it became clear that Parkinson had grown weary of the whole issue. "What does it matter who kicks off? The sooner this becomes just another radio programme the better."

Throughout December Parkinson had been rushing to record a whole 14-show series of DID. Even this was in contrast with Plomley who had jugged along at a steady pace or two recordings a week. He used to take the castaways out to lunch.

Parkinson has abandoned even that. The problem is, that he plans to spend three months from January watching cricket in Australia and the West Indies. So the programmes had to be sewn up by the New Year.

Plomley died in the spring and the decision was immediately taken to go on with the show. It was among the oldest programmes in the world and among the most loved. It had a warm combination of calm, obsequious chat and the mild thrill of guessing what records, luxuries and books the guests would choose. It was the essence of Radio 4, or more correctly, the Home Service, and it steadily drew one million listeners.

But Plomley was the programme. His solid, institutional quality arose from his friendly style and his complete inability to conduct an interview. His genial inquiries were predictable and designed solely to elicit a narrative on the most conventional possible view. There was never a difficult question and certainly no professional trickery.

Roy Plomley never "turned over" anybody and he remains one of the few people who could be heard smiling on radio.

Plomley's widow, who inherited the show's copyright,



Shore touch: Parkinson rehearses with Bruce Oldfield (left) and Derek Drescher (centre) before the real interview (below)

had some say in the choice of successor. She agreed to a list of five names, any of whom could be chosen. Then she went public and announced that she preferred Richard Baker. Drescher felt aggrieved and then distinctly wounded when she reacted badly to the choice of Parkinson. The battle between the old and the new had begun and Drescher was in the middle.

"Well, we did choose Parky because we wanted somebody slightly different," he confides, "somebody with a bit more edge. I mean people used to say that Roy was good at drawing people out - but he wasn't. If somebody wasn't talking he was lost."

On the Oldfield day Parkinson was to squeeze in two recordings - jazz musician Johnny Dankworth in the morning and Oldfield in the afternoon. The day starts at 10.30am in Drescher's office. It is in the Radio 3 building, to be close to the record library and the necessary expertise in identifying exactly what music castaways are after.

Parkinson bounces in slightly late and it immediately becomes clear that Dankworth - along with people like Boycott, Best and Connolly - is on the

list of Parky's intimates. Nobody is about to get "turned over". He has all the non-style of wealthy middle-aged broadcasters - cavalry twill trousers, a pullover whose pattern matches his socks, a leather jacket and a salt-beef sandwich.

We plough through the list of music which Dankworth has sent them in advance. Drescher plays the records too loudly through his Marantz stereo and times them with his stop-watch. Every piece draws out anecdotes at which Parkinson laughs in his familiar all-boys-together style.

That process over, we stroll over to Broadcasting House for the recording. Parkinson is insistently keen to establish that he wants to be different from Plomley. He, for example, wants Arthur Scargill as a guest - difficult to imagine him responding to the gentle interest of good old Roy.

The desert island itself is a green baize table surrounded by padded turquoise screens in one corner of an enormous studio. There is not so much as a cardboard palm tree to give a little atmosphere. During the recording, they do not even play the records. This annoys Parkinson, who keeps moaning about having to pick up the

interview by referring to the preceding unheard music. But the sound engineer is perfect. He was obviously born inside Broadcasting House and has never been anywhere else. He is a young version of the vintage BBC buff and he still has his school name-tag on his battered brief case - "P.C. Hutchinson".

The show goes smoothly enough. It is not like Plomley in that Parkinson seems less interested in the whole life story and the tone is less deferential. But it is cosy.

Dankworth dealt with, we go in search of lunch. Parkinson knows of a Chinese restaurant but it is full. He stands for a while in front of the waiter to ensure he has been recognized, but the man remains inscrutable and the restaurant remains full.

Everybody drinks except Parkinson, yet even so he begins to loosen up in some mysterious way. He launches into some predictable criticisms of Terry Wogan - guests reduced to ciphers, too big for his boots and so on, all combined with the usual disclaimers - "of course Terry's a lovely guy."

Then he begins to wonder about Oldfield and Princess Diana and it becomes clear why he is relaxing - he is looking forward to the challenge.

Drescher leaves to start work with Oldfield, but Parkinson is warming to his theme and he stays over several more coffees to discuss the vicissitudes of broadcasting life.

Back at Drescher's office Oldfield has significantly raised the sartorial stakes - double-breasted black and white heron-bone jacket, black suede shoes and Paisley-pattern tie.

H is choice of records - complete with serial numbers - had arrived neatly typed on Bruce Oldfield headed notepaper. But there is some trouble about the right order which nettles Parkinson. He keeps dragging the conversation back to practicalities while Drescher and Oldfield muller about precisely which piece is required from The Magic Flute.

Eventually we start the trek to a studio - this time it is smaller and there is no P. C. Hutchinson. Instead there is a girl of the genus "Islington" who priggishly cuts off the overheard conversation about the Royals and sneers "got your story then?" at the gentleman of the press. She also completes Parkinson and Oldfield's sentences and their grammar for the benefit of those in the box during the recording. Come

back, P. C. Hutchinson, there was nothing to forgive. The royal fencing and the "not a proper job" jibe badly fluster Oldfield. The next question is about some fashion designers being limp-wristed.

"There are as many masculine women in fashion as there are effeminate men," he replies. Parkinson guffaws and swings violently backwards in his chair. "Great," he shouts, "there are more lesbians than poofs in fashion?" Drescher winces.

AND JUST ONE LUXURY?

Castaways are allowed one object of their choice.

After 43 years the beaches are littered...

There have been a few defeatists along the way. Bandleader Billy Cotton chose as his one luxury a ticket home and pianist Sir Clifford Curzon took along a pill to put him to sleep for ever. By and large, however, the desert island has become what it was never intended to be - a monument to self-indulgence.

With Marti Caine in her bubble bath, Janet Suzman in mid-lined hammock and Helen Mirren in silk underwear, it is scarcely surprising that most of the scores of field glasses and telescopes have, over the years of Desert Island Discs, been chosen by men - among them, A. P. Herbert, Eamonn Andrews, Ronald Searle, Robertsoo Hare, Sir Arthur Bliss, David Attenborough and Fred Trueman.

Allowing for the immortality of its occupants, the all-pervading aroma on the island is that of expensive perfume brought by Jessie Matthews, Alicia Markova, Felicity Kendal and, surprisingly, John Osborne.

Ever since Spike Hughes howled up with a barrel of wine in January, 1952, the sound of drunken merriment has become steadily louder. C. Day Lewis, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Gregory Peck, and Sir Robin Day have kept the cellars topped up (actor Hugh Williams remembered mercifully to bring a corkscrew) while whisky has been laid on by R. C. Sherriff, Burl Ives, Daphne du Maurier, Lord Snowdon, the Marquess of Bath and Kingsley Amis, apricot brandy by Sir Atec Guinness and vodka by Terry Wogan.

If Superintendent Robert Fahian of Scotland Yard dared to emerge from under his umbrella he would have little difficulty in solving some outrageous thefts. Scattered around the island are Valerie Hobson with The Albert Memorial, Osbert Lancaster with Venus de Milo, Tyrone Power with Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks, Kenneth Williams with Michelangelo's Apollo, Lionel Bart with Nelson's Colonnade and Joan Fontaine, perhaps most daringly of all, with the Taj Mahal.

Several castaways, however, are only here for the sleep. Among those who arrived with their own bed are Evelyn Laye, Sid James, bandleader Ray Ellington (with mosquito net), Baroness Sommershill (four-poster), David Niven and Margaret Leighton with her old Girl Guide camp bed.

What once of them realized that sleep on the island is almost impossible - the whole place is shaking to the sound of music. The orchestra is, to say the least, unusually composed, with Yehudi Menuhin, Max Jaffa, Frank Muir and James Herriot on violin; Pat Smythe, John Valentine Dwyal and Gareth Edwards on trumpet.

Although the great majority of islanders have chosen the quiet, contemplative life with paints, drawing materials or writing paper and pens, there is a certain amount of violent activity. While Sarah Vaughan, Sir Leo Hinton, The Lords Boothby and Longford, Max Bygraves, Peter Brough and Archie Andrews are swinging around the golf course, Peter Ustinov and Alan Melville have brought their tennis rackets and Frederick Forsyth is creating mayhem with his bow and arrows.

Meanwhile, Tito Gohli is keeping discomfort at bay with his ivory backscratcher, Ludovic Kennedy is savouring a jar of tartare sauce, Alfred Marks has brought along a telephone which doesn't work, Alfred Hitchcock a Continental railway timetable and Oliver Reed, regrettably, an inflatable rubber woman.

Only Victor Borge has brought nothing. For him, the greatest luxury is not having to pay tax or insurance.

William Greaves



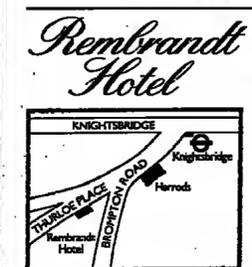
Alan Parker (above) is the guest on the first Desert Island Discs of the new series, on Radio 4 tomorrow from 12.15pm-12.55pm.

SATURDAY

Police man's ball: Sting on his solo tour - page 32

Table with 3 columns: Arts diary, Bridge, Chess, Concerts, Crossword, Dance, Drink, Films, Galleries, Gardening, Opera, Out & About, Photography, Review, Shopping, TV & Radio, Theatre, Travel.

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

On horseback to the rose-red city

Continuing his occasional series on far-flung places, Michael Watkins heads for Jordan, a land of holy tombs and pagan shrines, where 'welcome' is the universal greeting and the dramas of the past are etched in the desert rock

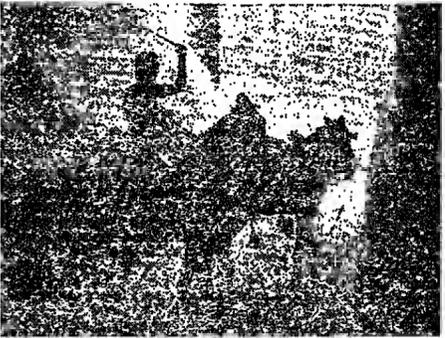
I rode into Petra on a horse called Sahar, and it was foul, the weather was exquisitely foul. Anyone can enter Petra on a fine day. That takes no skill at all for most days are fine. The day I chose was God-sent, or at least the gift of lesser Nabatean deities who haunt this spot, and their message seemed ominous, containing stinging phrases like "go back". Gusts of cruelty drove through the Siq, so that the rain slanted in saffron cuts.

"A rose-red city - half as old as Time"; and rose-red it was, justifying the cliché. Half as old as Time was a lie, for Time is very old indeed. Older than Aaron whose tomb caps nearby Mount Hor; older than Moses himself where, at Wadi Musa, he struck the rock and water gushed forth.



TRAVEL NOTES

Specialists in Jordan: Jasmin Tours, High Street, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berks SL5 9SQ (06285-29444). Flights to Amman by Alia: The Royal Jordanian Airline. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan requires that your passport contains no Israeli immigration stamps, insisting that you obtain a new passport if such stamps exist.



Through the Siq: the tortuous approach to Petra

cliffs and mountains within the canyon. Leaving the horses, we began a 45-minute haul to the Monastery of Deir carved in the third century AD to the Nabatean god Dhan-shara. As if this wasn't enough Fallahat, gesturing me to match foothold for foothold, started swarming up the rock-face of the monastery itself, spread-eagling his arms to find a grip.

Three days earlier I'd flown into Amman. It should have been light, but the Royal Jordanian Airline was four hours late; so the day had turned ochre-black. The long drive into the capital was like being blindfolded. There was nothing tactile about that drive, nor was there about the four-star hotel to which the car delivered me: it wasn't a bad hotel and it wasn't a good one, if anything it seemed reluctantly acceptable.

Next day was Friday, Islam's holy day; so Amman was shut. But I had a driver and a large American car that wallowed along like a bedroom all the way to Jerash, 30 miles north. Like most things which have come under the influence of Rome, Jerash was imposing in a brutal Third Reich way.

sky, arguably the oldest houses in the world. Beyond Beida was "Little Petra", so called because it is all I have so far described in miniature, its secret better contained by remoteness and by an ancient guard, Mihimimid Amarin, a trusty Arab and honest, according to his reference signed by Diana Kirkbride.

Had the car seized on another three hours or so we'd have arrived in Damascus, where I'd have turned right heading towards the Syrian desert caravan resting place along the old silk route known as Palmyra. Where Jerash was tamed, domesticated by the modern town around it, Palmyra still belongs to the desert, to the god Bel and to raw elements. Like Petra, it is bewitched; inexplicable currents are abroad, it does not do to flout them for fear of reprisal.

There was nothing of the sort about the 12th-century hill fortress of Ajlun, sometimes mistaken for a Crusader castle. But Qal'at er-Rabad was built as a defence against Crusaders: it dominates a 4,000ft mountain overlooking the Jordan Valley and the base of Gilead. There were many people there: all, as



Pillars of strength: columns in the forum at Jerash, founded by Alexander the Great

far as I could tell, were Jordanian. A replete-looking family group invited me to turn their own Yasbica on them in a kind of photographic hara-kiri; and when I did they said "Welcome". It was the one English word with which the entire population seemed familiar; ask where the post-office was, walk headlong into a plate-glass door, "Welcome" was the universal response.

The day was half-done by then, still time to belt down to the shores of the Dead Sea, 1,306ft below sea level. In Arabic it is called Bahr Lut, the Sea of Lot. I have seen it many

times from the other side, but from no angle can I be persuaded that it has any redeeming feature. On the Israeli side there are one or two hotels; and they are awful. Along the road were wistful signposts pointing to Jerusalem; there were mine-fields too, marked by skull and cross-bones.

He was still there next morning when I drew my motel room curtains on the 18th floor; a shepherd tending a straggly flock on a patch of land encircled by motorway. I'd watched him since arriving, a figure from the past, an anachronism of small relevance in Amman. Yet as recently as 1932 this capital city was "little

more than an overgrown village", so far from denying the shepherd his pasture, there is every likelihood that he or his kin will be around long after Amman returns to the wilderness to which it once belonged.

This was my most prescient feeling about the capital of the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan: a sense of impermanence, that tides of history and sand will engulf. That day I tried to find the heart of Amman, built, like Rome, on seven hills; and when I did, it fluttered only feebly. By right it is old; the earliest Biblical reference is in Deuteronomy III, which says that the great iron bed of Og, King of Bashan, is in the Rabboth of Ammon. But it's gone, vanished.

The Roman theatre is there, marvellously restored, but much of the rest, is a dreary, utilitarian hodge-podge.

There are two roads south: the Desert Highway and the King's Road. The guide-book said Petra was three hours by the former, eight by the latter; so I took the latter.

I made three stops: the first at Madaba to see, in the Greek Orthodox Church, the 6th-century AD mosaic map of Palestine and Jordan, which includes a street plan of Jerusalem at the time. The second was six miles north, at Mount Nebo, because on a clear day you can see the Mount of Olives and because it is one of the alleged sites of Moses's tomb. The third stop, 75 miles on at Kerak or Crak des

TRAVEL NEWS

Pay now, go easy

Two companies, Superbreak Mini-Holidays and Inter-Hotel, have combined to offer a pre-paid "go-as-you-please" hotel-accommodation voucher scheme aimed at independent travellers, particularly those planning a motoring holiday. It covers more than 400 hotels in Britain, Ireland, France, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium.

Each voucher costs £42 and provides one night's accommodation for two people in a twin room, including service, VAT and a complimentary telephone call to arrange the following night's accommodation. It also includes full breakfast in Britain (except London) and Ireland or Continental breakfast elsewhere. Reservations can be made only one day in advance and the vouchers are not refundable.

Information from Superbreak (01-278 0383), or Inter-Hotel (01-373 3241).

Liberal savings

The new liberalized air agreement between the British and Dutch governments has resulted in British Airways cutting fares on the busy London-Amsterdam route. The Saver fare will be cut by £10 to £99 return and the Super Saver fare by £22 to £69 return. The £55 Late Saver return fare is retained at its present level.

Combined sea-fares between the UK and Denmark, Sweden and Germany are to be available for the first time in 1986. Travel is by DFDS Seaways' North Sea ferries in one direction and by scheduled services of British Airways, Air UK and SAS Scandinavian Airlines in the other. Fares between London and Copenhagen range between £200 and £250 return according to season and include the rail journey to or from Harwich and Esbjerg. Combined sea-air fares are also available on DFDS services to Gothenburg and Hamburg.

Flying licences

The Civil Aviation Authority has reminded holidaymakers planning a charter flight-based holiday to ensure that the tour operator holds a valid Air Travel Organizer's Licence (ATOL). An ATOL is also needed for some holidays based on scheduled flights. An explanatory leaflet published by the CAA, What is an ATOL, is being distributed to citizens' advice bureaux, consumer advice centres and ABTA-member travel agents. Free copies are also available from the CAA, Printing and Publication Section, PO Box 42, Cheltenham Gloucestershire.

Frozen assets

Holidays in Latin America will be cheaper this year, according to a specialist operator, South American Travel. The company has frozen most of its prices and has introduced shorter duration packages, with prices starting at £635 for an inclusive 10-day holiday in Rio. The company is offering tours to almost every country on the South American continent, including Argentina. Information: 01-833 2641.

Philip Ray

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TRAVEL

Shona Crawford Poole reports on Davos and keeps a weather eye on bargain breaks, while Richard Williams falls for Schladming

Finding your ski legs in Switzerland

Davos boasts the first T-bar in the world. It is also the venue for the annual Anglo-Swiss parliamentary ski race...

other across the town. With a score of 19 black lines on the piste map, there are plenty of options to interest the expert or intrepid, and it would be a very energetic intermediate skier who could explore the network of red runs thoroughly inside a fortnight.

scientific citizens for collecting pooch poop. Trains connect sensibly with buses and ski lifts and all of them run on time...

TRAVEL NOTES

Tailor-made Ski Tours, Edymead House, Farnley Wick, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 2PZ (0225 859598). A week at the four-star Central Sportshotel with scheduled Swissair flight...



Fresh fields: recent snowfalls have improved conditions

The lowdown on Austria

It is said that no man will admit to being a poor performer in bed or at the steering wheel. I will go further. I am no good on T-bars, either. I try, though. Whole afternoons are sacrificed to private T-bar practice as I shuttle up and down a nursery slope...

stream of ascending eight-year-olds and grandmothers. Since this was practically the last thing that happened to me at the end of four days in Schladming, it has since become a bit of a speckle in the memory. That is a pity, since this attractive old town otherwise has much to commend it to skiers of every calibre.

manageable by intermediates. On our visit though, the bare final section had been covered a day or two before by artificial snow, which had frozen into a field of vicious moguls. That put an end to the dreams with a bump or, rather, a series of bumps.

Pocket guide

Bargain hunters in the January ski holiday sales will find some exceptional buys this year. The reason is a happy conjunction of weather and school holidays.

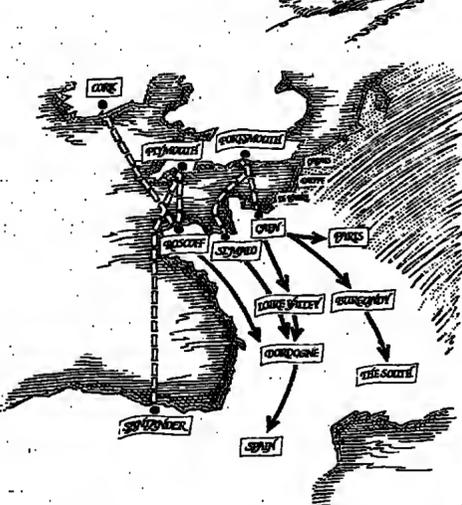
buildings and to employing the chalet girls. Not only do they want to sell the beds, but chalets are invariably in the best resorts.

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SHOPPING

Pack to the future

The art of packaging has become almost as important as the contents to boost sales. But Beryl Downing discovers the modern image promoted by designers owes much of its style to ideas from days long past

Will this year be the year of the superpack? High street shops throughout the country are being revamped with mirrored pillars and floor-to-ceiling plate glass. The products they offer are aimed at a young, design-fed generation. So why does the motto of the packaging designers still seem to be Per nostalgia ad nauseam?

It is because that is how the rest of the world sees Britain and British goods, then perhaps it is time we disabused them. At the turn of the century, as now, we had to do a good deal of flag waving to combat imports and every product had a picture of John Bull or Britannia rubbing Union Jacks with an occasional lion. Even in those days they were not modern images, but using them in advertisements and wrappers was a new idea. Even Royalty was not immune. It would be unthinkable today for the Queen to allow her photograph to appear on a packet of porridge oats. But in 1897 the buyers of Goller Oats

must have been reassured by the picture of Queen Victoria above the caption "Two Safeguards of the Constitution". The Princess of Wales endorsed The Alexandra Dentifrice, oil, starch and chocolates and Edward VII apparently enjoyed Horniman's Pure Tea and Spratts Patent Dog Cakes. All these examples are from Robert Opie's collection of packaging in his book Rule Britannia (Viking, £12.95).

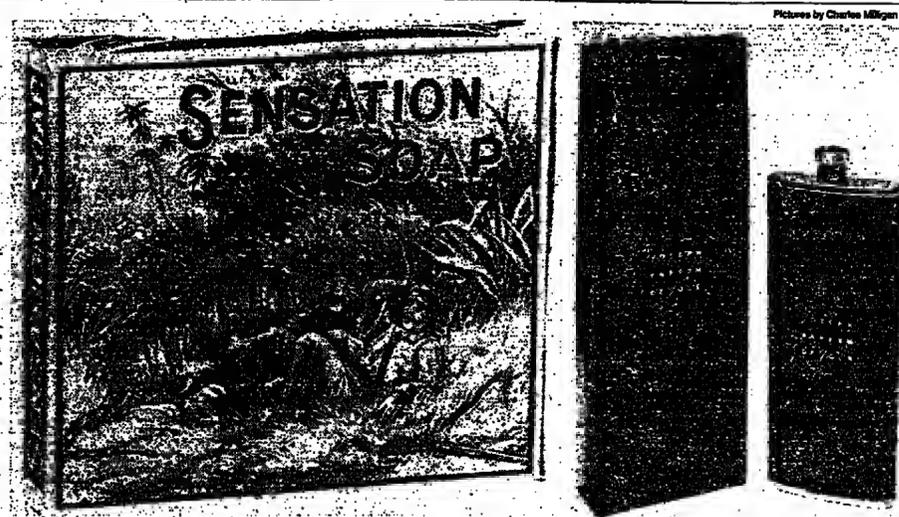
Commercial endorsement by the Royal Family stopped in the early 1920s, although it is still allowed for jubilees, weddings and other special occasions. But the feeling for tradition and the security it implies continues in other forms. Packaging designers strongly defend the validity of nostalgic packaging. Trickett & Webb is a consultancy which has become known for retrospective designs commissioned for centenaries and celebrations, including a book for Unilever's Sunlight mustard tin for the Queen's jubilee and several products for Marks & Spencer.

"Some people think of us whenever they want something that looks old and comes in a tin, but we don't do nostalgia purely for the sake of it," says Brian Webb. "Modern high-tech design is good for certain efficient, streamlined things, but you can't put delicate items into that sort of packaging. Even the most sophisticated people have a fear of the unknown. If you can approach them with something familiar you are half way there, as long as it is accompanied by a good idea."

One of his recent successful ideas was to package a range of men's gifts like a series of books. "The problem was to find something that would apply to a whole range of unrelated products. Until our book series, the basic idea seemed to have been, 'just anything in a pack as long as it has a handkerchief with it. It was nice to be able to add a bit of fun.'"

"When I was at college in the 1960s there was only one way of looking at design - clean, barded, edged, hygienic. Today we assess products in their own right and package for the people and the market they are aimed at."

Whether we, the public, appreciate the efforts made on our behalf is another matter. We spend nearly £3,000 million a year wrapping things up in decorative boxes that are thrown away. Yet packaging is not there only to say "Pick me up - I'm the best", but also to give protection to the contents



Ancient and modern: a soap packet (c.1900) from Robert Opie's collection and the 1985 image for scotch - oo longer pretty and delicate but strong and chic in a black and stainless steel flask with matching black and silver packaging to echo Joseph's fashion image. It exemplifies Michael Peter's belief that the product's styling will influence the packet's design.



Novel nostalgia: creating a series of mock books with witty titles was Trickett & Webb's way of finding a common denominator for a group of otherwise unrelated men's gifts by Roots. They chose the 1930s as a suitable style for the 1985 Christmas market as this is one of the currently fashionable retrospective periods. The "dust cover" is not only a practical and original lid but also carries the essential information about the product on the "fly leaf".



Two for tea: the Twinnings tin (right), designed in 1935, is still used for specialist food halls and exports. The black pack with a different cameo design for each blend was introduced in 1982. Sales have trebled.

and information about the product. It should also be safe to handle and easy even for disabled fingers to open. A Design Council exhibition on packaging last year showed that although 50 children suffocate each year by putting plastic bags

over their heads, some manufacturers still fail to put ventilation holes in their bags. Many reusable food containers have become as important as their contents. The concept of the object itself being the package is subscribed to by Michael Peters, whose design consultancy is an international leader in packaging. "Traditional packaging is the cardboard box you put round the object, but the future of packaging is in the styling of the object itself," he says. "The public doesn't yet understand about graphics - people haven't learned the language as they have in the style of their clothes. But the new generation of youngsters is the first that readily understands design and they are demanding good looking products."

"I have to try to be a visual clairvoyant and I can see tremendous changes coming." The effect of wider markets and international trade has meant that there is less national identity about packaging from other countries. "The British were leaders in packaging until about 1920 and the Americans took over in the 1950s, but now they are losing their way," says Peters. "Even the Japanese, who traditionally have had caring as part of their culture and show it in the way they present things, are now adopting the worst of the West's vulgar packaging."

John Blackburn, whose design partnership with the 1985 Design & Art Directors' packaging award for its presentation of

Cockburn's Tawny Port, points out that even the Italians, admired so much for their sense of style, are not particularly inspirational about packaging. "If you over-package something it will make people suspicious. You have to inspire confidence. Sales graphs show how the right packaging sells the product, whether we like to believe it or not. Some of us resent paying extra for presentation and go to the nearest bulk-buy shop for goods in plain sacks and paper bags, but we are a minority. Certainly there are good cosmetics in plain jars and others in fancy packs that are no better and sometimes worse but if the fancy one makes us feel more glamorous, who can argue that it is not worth the price?"

Perhaps designers' games should appear on packaging as they used to be on ceramics. That may encourage more innovation and higher standards, for designing the bits that are thrown away must be a frustrating business. Who at cocktail hour raises a glass to John Blackburn for updating the Harvey's Bristol Cream label? Who asks if there is Peters still for tea as the Eisenham is spread on the crumpets? Only another designer.

DRINK

Buy now and beat the Bordelais

JANUARY WINES

January is usually the quietest month in the wine calendar. The vines are dormant, very little work is done in the cellar and most wine merchants, after the festive rush, have nothing more pressing to do than sort out a few bin-end bottles for their new year sales. But this year, for UK wine merchants in the claret trade, January could turn out to be a very busy month indeed. As early as last August and September, several wine merchants were already expressing concern over what they thought was a "conspiracy of silence" from Bordeaux. For instead of the usual long, detailed letters and telexes from Bordeaux negociants and proprietors describing the likely quality and quantity of the 1985 claret harvest, very little information was received.

Although it was clear then that the Bordeaux 1985 harvest was likely to be excellent due to the extraordinarily hot Indian summer, most British merchants had to unearth this important information for themselves. Many believed that this curious lack of first-hand news was due entirely to the Bordeaux wine trade trying to get rid of its mostly indifferent 1984 vintage before the word got out about the '85.

Three months later the English wine trade is worried about the opening prices that the Bordelais are likely to demand for their 1985 wine. Several Bordeaux proprietors, most notably Madame de Lencquesaing from Chateau Pichon-Longueville, and Comtesse de Lalande, have already stated that their '85 will be considerably more expensive than last year's vintage.

The French risk losing the British market

This may sound fair because the '85 will certainly be better than the '84. But the opening prices charged for the disappointing '84 were, somewhat surprisingly, around 20 per cent higher than those of the splendid '83 vintage. If the '85 vintage is priced at a similar increase above the '84, the current price to claret drinkers in the UK of the prestigious second growth is likely to be more than £25 per bottle.

In an attempt to avoid such stratospheric prices, UK wine merchants, led by Robin Kerrick, Clerk of the Royal Cellars and chairman of Corney and Barrow, have written stiff letters to the Bordeaux authorities and proprietors.

Simon Loftus from Adnams thinks the situation is "absolutely crazy" and urges UK wine merchants not to buy any wine at all if prices are so steep. Graham Chidgey from Laytons, another important Bordeaux buyer, takes an equally grim view: "The French believe they can ignore the poorer nations of Europe but they could risk losing the stable traditional British market."

Claret lovers on this side of the Channel should buy stocks of good yet still inexpensive claret new, if possible from the splendid '82 and '83 vintages before they leap up in price.

The magnificent 1982 vintage is the year to go for and although most of the finest cru classe wines are now priced on most merchants' lists for around £20, their second wines are still available for under half that price and given the uncertainty over the '85 prices, they now look remarkably good value for money. Lay and Wheeler (6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex) still list three fine examples.



My favourite is the second wine of Leveille-Las Cases - the Clos du Marquis with its deep purple colour and intensely rich cassis taste and cedary finish; definitely a January bargain at £8.28.

Pichoo Lalande fans will be glad to know that they can still buy a reasonably priced wine from this property - one other than their '84 second wine, Reserve de la Comtesse. With its dark colour turning garnet at the edges and rich, beefy taste, it is not as good as the Clos du Marquis but will mature earlier, and is again good value at £8.86.

A shade cheaper at £7.99 and worth every penny is the second wine of Grand Larose-Sarget de Grand Larose from the St Julienne Commune, like Clos du Marquis and blessed with a similar cedary richness.

Apart from buying second wine from a great year such as 1982, try the second wines from unfashionable, quick-maturing vintages such as 1980. Pavillon Rouge 1980, the second wine from the back-on-top-form premier grand cru classe Chateau Margaux is superb with its wonderful full flowery bouquet and rich, soft, fruity taste (Lay and Wheeler, £7.99).

Jane MacQuitty

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IN THE GARDEN

Branch out into transplant operations

The best time to plant or transplant trees or shrubs is during their dormant period - the time between November and March when growth in deciduous plants stops so that damage from our cold winters is kept to a minimum. Evergreens go into a semi-dormant state but never stop showing signs of growth completely.

The ground and the weather conditions must be right. Do not try to plant into ground which is frozen, has more than a thin layer of frost, or is snow covered. Do not plant when the soil is so wet that it lifts in great lumps on the boots. It destroys the texture and it may take years to get it back into reasonable condition.

There are a number of other principles to bear in mind. Lift trees or shrubs carefully and make sure the roots are not broken - any more than is necessary. Nurseries are usually very careful when lifting trees and shrubs, and only do so when they are in the right



Digging in: a scene from William Lawson's A New Orchard and Garden, published in 1676

condition for planting. It is easier to see how well a plant has been lifted if you are buying bare-rooted plants rather than container grown plants. The time between lifting and replanting should be as short as possible. Never leave roots

exposed to the air. If you are not able to plant immediately the plants should be heeled in or they should be stored under a shelter and covered with a wet sack. Plants delivered from a nursery should be opened up as soon as they have been received

and checked to see how well they have travelled. If they are dehydrated in any way they should be soaked in a bucket of water to restore plumpness. Prepare the planting site well. The ideal for a normal nursery shrub is to dig a hole 2x2ft and to 2ft deep. The bottom spit should have well-rotted farm yard manure or well-rotted compost mixed with the soil. This is best done well in advance of the planting and if necessary the hole can be filled in to be dug out again later. Boeemecal can be added to the top spit and mixed into the area into which the roots will go when planted. Never handle bare-rooted plants with your bare hands unless you are sure it has been treated.

Plants can be a little deeper than they were in the nursery but it is unwise to plant them above the nursery mark. Should a plant require staking always put the stake in the bole first.

Ashley Stephenson

QUESTION TIME

There is Honey Fungus in a bank I am developing, which has infected a privet hedge and an old beech. Can I treat the land and what plants can resist the disease?

You must ensure that all the root is dug from the soil and remove the two good plants at either end of the diseased area. Avoid replanting with woody plants for one year, longer if possible, and put in herbaceous plants instead.

I know of no effective chemical to control the disease, but Bray's Emulsion may help. Trees and shrubs which can survive the disease include: Acer negundo, Liquidambar styracif-

ina, Prunus spinosa, Ailanthus altissima, species of Crataegus and many of the Tiliacae. Shrubs to consider include Cistus species, Cotinus coccinea, Rhus typhina, Lonicera nitida, forms of the common ivy, Hedera helix, Taxus baccata the yew tree, Tamarix in its forms, Clematis and elaeagnus.

I have a number of gravelled paths and a large courtyard which needs regular attention to kill weeds and moss. What can I do to keep them clean? Residual weedkillers are ideal on areas where you do not wish to grow other plants and as a rule a single application is enough to keep weeds away for at least a year. Use one of the non-creeper weedkillers like Simazine or Casoron G. Moss

requires different treatment but a good moss killer will clean up the area with regular applications.

I have a tiny garden, no greenhouse or shed and want to store my dahlias and begonia tubers. What is the best place? Neither plant likes to be stored in the warm when dormant. They do not need light but must have air movement, so the storage site cannot be too enclosed. As you do not have ideal conditions the tubers should be placed in the dark in the coldest room in your house and wrapped in newspaper.

Readers with queries about gardening should write to Ashley Stephenson, The Times, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1.

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BARBICAN CENTRE FEBRUARY BARBICAN CENTRE FEBRUARY BARBICAN CENTRE FEBRUARY

BARBICAN HALL

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Saturday 1 February at 7.45pm
 Leonard Slatkin conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Sunday 2 February at 7.30pm
 Leonard Slatkin conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Monday 3 February at 7.30pm
 Leonard Slatkin conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

THE NICKEL-RODHEASTERS

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Tuesday 4 February at 7.45pm
 Alan Wright conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Wednesday 5 February at 7.45pm
 Alan Wright conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Thursday 6 February at 7.45pm
 Alan Wright conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Friday 7 February at 7.45pm
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Saturday 8 February at 7.45pm
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Sunday 9 February at 7.45pm
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Monday 10 February at 7.45pm
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Tuesday 11 February at 7.45pm
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Wednesday 12 February at 7.45pm
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
 Thursday 13 February at 7.45pm
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
 Friday 14 February at 7.45pm
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
 Saturday 15 February at 7.45pm
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
 Thursday 7.45pm
 PETER FRANKL (piano) GYORGY PAUK (violin) RALPH KRISH-BAUM (cello) Beethoven Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 41 No. 1; Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 35; Strauss Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 48 No. 1

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
 Sunday 7.30pm
 LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Leonard Slatkin conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
 Friday 8.00pm
 PETER FRANKL (piano) GYORGY PAUK (violin) RALPH KRISH-BAUM (cello) Beethoven Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 41 No. 1; Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 35; Strauss Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 48 No. 1

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
 Saturday 8.00pm
 PETER FRANKL (piano) GYORGY PAUK (violin) RALPH KRISH-BAUM (cello) Beethoven Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 41 No. 1; Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 35; Strauss Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 48 No. 1

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
 Sunday 8.00pm
 PETER FRANKL (piano) GYORGY PAUK (violin) RALPH KRISH-BAUM (cello) Beethoven Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 41 No. 1; Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 35; Strauss Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 48 No. 1

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Monday 11.00am
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Tuesday 11.00am
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Wednesday 11.00am
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
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MENDELSSOHN - HANDEL - BRUCH - BEETHOVEN
 LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Conductor: CLIVE FAIRBANKS; Soloist: MANOJ PARIKHAN

BARBICAN HALL

BARBICAN HALL
 Thursday 7.45pm
 PETER FRANKL (piano) GYORGY PAUK (violin) RALPH KRISH-BAUM (cello) Beethoven Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 41 No. 1; Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 35; Strauss Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 48 No. 1

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ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Monday 11.00am
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
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 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12

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AMASSATORS THEATRE
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APOLLO THEATRE
 WIFE BEGINS AT FORTY
 SATURDAY 11 JANUARY at 7.30pm

ASTORIA THEATRE
 WIFE BEGINS AT FORTY
 SATURDAY 11 JANUARY at 7.30pm

AT THE BARBICAN

WEDNESDAY NEXT 8th JANUARY at 7.45
HANDEL - MOZART
 LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 Conductors/pianist: HOWARD SHELLEY; CLARINET: JACK BRYMER

SUNDAY 12th JANUARY at 7.30
ELGAR - BEETHOVEN
 LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Conductors: BRIAN WRIGHT; Soloist: ROBERT COHEN

WEDNESDAY 29th JANUARY at 7.45
BRAHMS - MAHLER
 PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
 Conductor: JOHN CAREWE
 Soloist: ELIZABETH TREANOR

BARBICAN HALL

BARBICAN HALL
 Thursday 7.45pm
 PETER FRANKL (piano) GYORGY PAUK (violin) RALPH KRISH-BAUM (cello) Beethoven Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 41 No. 1; Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 35; Strauss Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 48 No. 1

BARBICAN HALL
 Friday 8.00pm
 PETER FRANKL (piano) GYORGY PAUK (violin) RALPH KRISH-BAUM (cello) Beethoven Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 41 No. 1; Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 35; Strauss Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 48 No. 1

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
 Sunday 2nd February 1986 at 7.30pm
LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY
 Sponsored by Capital Radio

BRITTEN: SERENADE FOR TENOR, HORN & STRINGS
YOUNG APOLLO; ST. NIKOLAS
 Anthony Rolfe Johnson (tenor), Michael Thompson (horn), Julian Jacobson (piano), Christopher Willis (piano)

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
 Conductor: RICHARD ARMSTRONG

Available 7th January from Royal Festival Hall, Box Office, London SE1 (01-928 3191) and usual agents of The Ticket Society, London Choral Society, 10, Edgware Rd, London W4 7AL (01-254 2944) CC: 01-928 3191.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Monday 11.00am
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
 Ego: Op. 10, No. 12
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ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Tuesday 11.00am
 James Judd conductor
 Richard Stoltzman piano
 John Shirley Oates bass-baritone
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ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
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AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER CELEBRATES
 40 YEARS OF CONCERTS WITH

YEHUDI MENUHIN
 40th ANNIVERSARY BEETHOVEN CONCERT
 Sunday 2nd February at 7.30
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
 Conductor: James Judd

BEETHOVEN
 SYMPHONY NO. 8 in F
 SYMPHONY NO. 9 in D minor
 SYMPHONY NO. 10 in G major
 SYMPHONY NO. 11 in D major

CENTRAL BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

CENTRAL BAND OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE
 VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: Toccata Marziale
 LISZT: Tarentelle
 DEBUSSY: Clair de Lune
 JOHN WILLIAMS: Star Wars Theme

DON LUSHER Trombone
MINEKO TSUCHIYA piano
WING COMAN AND ERIC VANS conductor
DAVID JACOBS composer

Thursday 23 January 7.15pm Barbican Hall

St John's Smith Square

St John's Smith Square
 Monday 11.00am
 James Judd conductor
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QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
 TUESDAY 14 JANUARY at 7.15pm
 In the presence of R.H.M. Princess Alexandra

BEETHOVEN
MISSA SOLEMNIS
 Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra
 Conducted by JOHN ELIOT GARDINER

Barbara Bonney Soprano Diana Montague Mezzo-Soprano
Pasquill Power Tenor Willard White Bass

Sponsored by British PM
 10.15.11.13.15.17.19.21.23.25.27.29.31.33.35.37.39.41.43.45.47.49.51.53.55.57.59.61.63.65.67.69.71.73.75.77.79.81.83.85.87.89.91.93.95.97.99.101.103.105.107.109.111.113.115.117.119.121.123.125.127.129.131.133.135.137.139.141.143.145.147.149.151.153.155.157.159.161.163.165.167.169.171.173.175.177.179.181.183.185.187.189.191.193.195.197.199.201.203.205.207.209.211.213.215.217.219.221.223.225.227.229.231.233.235.237.239.241.243.245.247.249.251.253.255.257.259.261.263.265.267.269.271.273.275.277.279.281.283.285.287.289.291.293.295.297.299.301.303.305.307.309.311.313.315.317.319.321.323.325.327.329.331.333.335.337.339.341.343.345.347.349.351.353.355.357.359.361.363.365.367.369.371.373.375.377.379.381.383.385.387.389.391.393.395.397.399.401.403.405.407.409.411.413.415.417.419.421.423.425.427.429.431.433.435.437.439.441.443.445.447.449.451.453.455.457.459.461.463.465.467.469.471.473.475.477.479.481.483.485.487.489.491.493.495.497.499.501.503.505.507.509.511.513.515.517.519.521.523.525.527.529.531.533.535.537.539.541.543.545.547.549.551.553.555.557.559.561.563.565.567.569.571.573.575.577.579.581.583.585.587.589.591.593.595.597.599.601.603.605.607.609.611.613.615.617.619.621.623.625.627.629.631.633.635.637.639.641.643.645.647.649.651.653.655.657.659.661.663.665.667.669.671.673.675.677.679.681.683.685.687.689.691.693.695.697.699.701.703.705.707.709.711.713.715.717.719.721.723.725.727.729.731.733.735.737.739.741.743.745.747.749.751.753.755.757.759.761.763.765.767.769.771.773.775.777.779.781.783.785.787.789.791.793.795.797.799.801.803.805.807.809.811.813.815.817.819.821.823.825.827.829.831.833.835.837.839.841.843.845.847.849.851.853.855.857.859.861.863.865.867.869.871.873.875.877.879.881.883.885.887.889.891.893.895.897.899.901.903.905.907.909.911.913.915.917.919.921.923.925.927.929.931.933.935.937.939.941.943.945.947.949.951.953.955.957.959.961.963.965.967.969.971.973.975.977.979.981.983.985.987.989.991.993.995.997.999.1001.1003.1005.1007.1009.1011.1013.1015.1017.1019.1021.1023.1025.1027.1029.1031.1033.1035.1037.1039.1041.1043.1045.1047.1049.1051.1053.1055.1057.1059.1061.1063.1065.1067.1069.1071.1073.1075.1077.1079.1081.1083.1085.1087.1089.1091.1093.1095.1097.1099.1101.1103.1105.1107.1109.1111.1113.1115.1117.1119.1121.1123.1125.1127.1129.1131.1133.1135.1137.1139.1141.1143.1145.1147.1149.1151.1153.1155.1157.1159.1161.1163.1165.1167.1169.1171.1173.1175.1177.1179.1181.1183.1185.1187.1189.1191.1193.1195.1197.1199.1201.1203.1205.1207.1209.1211.1213.1215.1217.1219.1221.1223.1225.1227.1229.1231.1233.1235.1237.1239.1241.1243.1245.1247.1249.1251.1253.1255.1257.1259.1261.1263.1265.1267.1269.1271.1273.1275.1277.1279.1281.1283.1285.1287.1289.1291.1293.1295.1297.1299.1301.1303.1305.1307.1309.1311.1313.1315.1317.1319.1321.1323.1325.1327.1329.1331.1333.1335.1337.1339.1341.1343.1345.1347.1349.1351.1353.1355.1357.1359.1361.1363.1365.1367.1369.1371.1373.1375.1377.1379.1381.1383.1385.1387.1389.1391.1393.1395.1397.1399.1401.1403.1405.1407.1409.1411.1413.1415.1417.1419.1421.1423.1425.1427.1429.1431.1433.1435.1437.1439.1441.1443.1445.1447.1449.1451.1453.1455.1457.1459.1461.1463.1465.1467.1469.1471.1473.1475.1477.1479.1481.1483.1485.1487.1489.1491.1493.1495.1497.1499.1501.1503.1505.1507.1509.1511.1513.1515.1517.1519.1521.1523.1525.1527.1529.1531.1533.1535.1537.1539.1541.1543.1545.1547.1549.1551.1553.1555.1557.1559.1561.1563.1565.1567.1569.1571.1573.1575.1577.1579.1581.1583.1585.1587.1589.1591.1593.1595.1597.1599.1601.1603.1605.

THE WEEK AHEAD



OPERA SACHS ROAMER: Norman Bailey is back as Hans Sachs, his most famous role, in the English National Opera revival of The Mastersingers of Nuremberg.



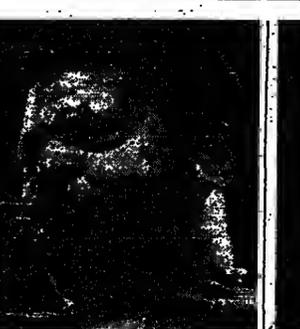
FILMS DRAGON SLAYER: Michael Cimino returns to the screen five years after his hit thriller, Year of the Dragon (16). Mickey Rourke plays an upright cop trying to clean up New York's Chinatown.



CONCERTS KEY NOTES: José Feghali, the 24-year-old Brazilian pianist who won the 1985 Van Cliburn Piano Competition in Texas, performs Schumann's Carnival.



TELEVISION TALL STORY: Rik Mayall, star of alternative comedy, takes a new role reading George's Marvelous Medicine.



JAZZ TOUGH TENOR: George Coleman missed the glory generally reflected on Miles Davis's saxophonists in the 1960s.



DANCE STYLE POINTS: Elaine McDonald, Scottish Ballet's gaitle, stylish ballerina, is seen too rarely in London but this week, besides dancing The Nutcracker with her own company in Glasgow, she gives two guest performances in the same place for London Festival Ballet.

ARTS DIARY

Running in to trouble

The Car Wars battle between biographer Robert Lacey and his American opposite numbers over who will be first into the bookshops with their biographies of Henry Ford II, is revving up nicely.

Is it a write off?

Tom Stoppard has just returned from Hollywood where he has delivered his screenplay of J. G. Ballard's novel The Empire of the Sun, not knowing whether the film will ever be made.

Two to be Prue

Two actresses will simultaneously be playing the buxom Miss Prue in Congreve's Love For Love in London from January 16.

Sunrise set

Speculation over the appointment of the head of the BBC's new Daytime Television programmes may be out of place as he content has yet to be decided.

Christopher Wilson

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Released from the Police



It happens to all bands, not just the Police. You start off as a democracy and then someone emerges as the leader. It usually ends in trouble.

Sting embarks on a new phase of his solo career when he starts a major tour of the UK tonight, writes Michael Cable

Sting's domination of the Police led to friction and for the last year they have been taking a break from each other.

He recently received a special award to mark the 25th anniversary of his first solo album, 'Every Breath You Take'.

His music has made him a multi-millionaire. He recently paid over £300,000 for Yehudi Menuhin's Highgate home.

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

ELMER GANTY: Steve Brown's musical, about the unbelievably hell-fire preacher, directed by Giles Croft.

OPENINGS

FATHER'S LYING DEAD ON THE IRONING BOARD: Agnes Bernelle presents a collection of songs which she has translated and adapted from the political and satirical cabarets of Germany between 1918-1938.

SELECTED

OTHELLO: Terry Hands directs Ben Kingsley, David Suchet, Niamh Cusack, Janet Dale, Gerard Logan, Tom Mannion, Joseph O'Connor, in the RSC production first seen at Barbican.

MANCHESTER

The Snowman: Raymond Briggs's benign night visitor, this time adapted for the stage by Anthony Clark, who also directs.

OPENINGS

A CHORUS LINE (PG): After almost a decade of hesitations, Michael Bennett's stage musical about show business arrives on the screen, directed by Richard Attenborough in a nervous array of styles.

SELECTED

BLACK HARRISBURG (15): Powell and Pressburger's exotic and breathtaking drama of 1947 set in a Himalayan convent with Deborah Kerr. A dazzling British achievement.

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET at Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916) dances Coppélia today (matinee and evening) and Mon.

BOOKINGS

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Postal booking opens this week for new production of Der fliegende Holländer with cast including Robert Lloyd, Simon Estes, and Rossini Pountney.

OUT OF TOWN

LIVERPOOL: The Divines Are Coming: Morecombe and Wise scriptwriter Eddie Braben's first stage comedy features Alison Steadman, Nick Stranger, Eli Woods and Jim Casey.

LAST CHANCE

SEA FINLAND: This presentation of seafaring in Finland includes relics, models and illustrations of primitive boats, great square-rigged sailing ships, naval battles in the Baltic as well as wrecks.

FOR TICKETS

For tickets availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed.

THE TIMES CHOICE

CONCERTS

HANDFORD/HALLE: Besides Joanna Grunberg soloing in Grieg's Piano Concerto, Maurice Handford conducts the Halle Orchestra in Mozart's Le nozze di Figaro overture and Elgar's Piano Concerto.

FILMS

SCOTTISH BALLET also performs The Nutcracker, in Peter Darrell's production, at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-331 1234) today and 34 Cork Street, London W1 (01-439 6262).

OPENINGS

SCULPTURE: Work by 18 sculptural stars, such as Calder, Caro, Frink and Paladino; also Roy Lichtenstein: Expressionist woodcuts from 1980, paintings and landscapes from the last two years.

OPERA

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: The Mastersingers of Nuremberg opens tonight at 5pm, a revival of Elijah Moshinsky's lively, warmly human 1984 production.

ROCK & JAZZ

BARRY MANLOW: How easy it is to forget that buried inside the type surrounding the housewife's superstar is a gift for pure pop that has found expression in such kitsch gems as "Mandy", "Could It Be Magic" and "It's a Miracle".

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